Sabaya trying to flee with Americans, says AFP

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2001 ★★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 233 ₱15

DELASIN beats Korean golf superstar Se Ri Pak for come-from-behind LPGA victory.

Megawati picks Manila for her first overseas trip

"MEGA" is coming, and Gloria's excited.

Newly elected Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri is to visit the Philippines on Aug. 22 for her first overseas trip since taking power, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is "excited" about the prospect of Megawati's visit, whose rise to power closely resembled her own, Press

MEGAWATI/ A14

Probe covers GMA, says Ombudsman

Delasin retains title, wins $150,000

VIENNA, Ohio—Dorothy Delasin was unaware that she is the only person to ever come from behind to beat Se Ri Pak in the final round of an LPGA event.

"I didn't know that," she said. "But I think that's cool." *(Related stories in Sports, Page A16)*

History and Delasin repeated at the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic on Sunday as the second-year player overcame Pak and a four-stroke deficit for the second year in a row.

"It's like déjà vu," Delasin said. "Hopefully next year it won't be four strokes."

Delasin shot a 7-under-par 65—the lowest round of the day—to pass both Pak and Tammie Green on the back nine and collect the first-place check of $150,000.

"I'm still shocked," said Delasin, who beat Pat Hurst in a playoff a year ago. "It's hard to defend your title. I just played with my heart."

Pak has won eight of the 10 tournaments she has led heading into the final round—with both losses coming to Delasin at the Giant Eagle.

"Everybody has a chance, no

DELASIN/ A14

Meralco cuts power rates by 30¢ per kwh

STARTING tomorrow, residential customers of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) using 200 kilowatt hours (kwh) a month will get a P60-cut in their monthly bills because of the 30-centavo per kilowatt-hour reduction in power rates, Meralco announced yesterday.

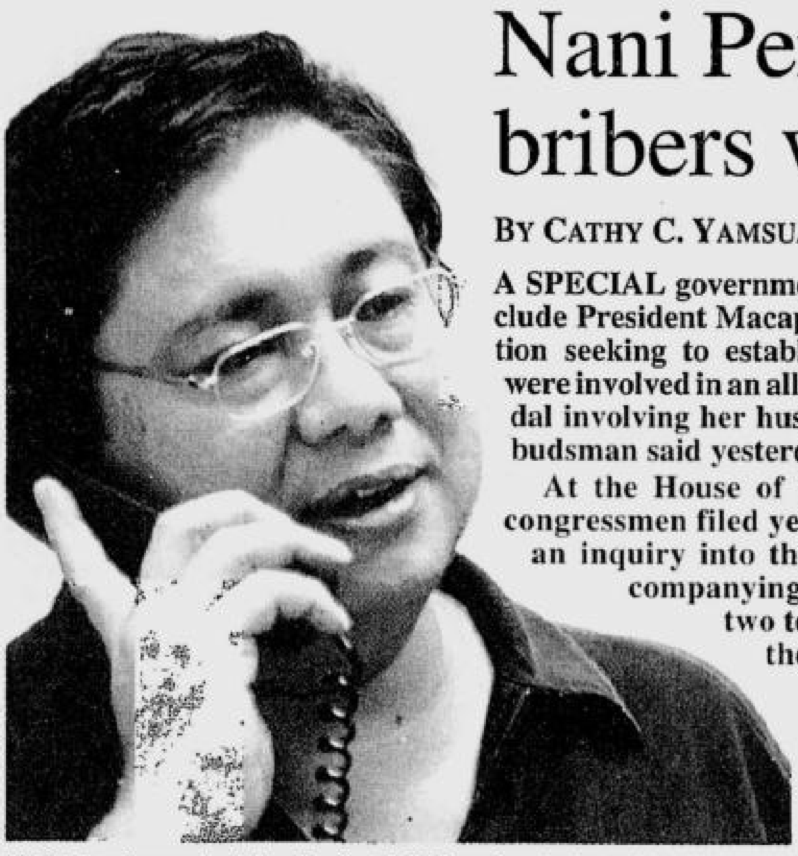
The reduction for households consuming 500 kwh is P150.

Meralco said the 30-centavo per kwh cut was mandated by the Electricity Industry Reform Act, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law on June 8.

When the act became effective on June 26, the newly formed Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) issued a resolution directing National Power Corp. (Napocor) to reduce its billings to electricity retailers.

ERC Acting Chair Melinda Ocampo had earlier explained that due to a time lag between Napocor's

MERALCO/ A4



JOAN BONDOC

FIRST Gentleman is giving the first full-blown headache to his wife.

Nani Perez: Alleged bribers were stupid

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Rocky Nazareno

A SPECIAL government fact-finding panel will include President Macapagal-Arroyo in an investigation seeking to establish whether public officials were involved in an alleged influence-peddling scandal involving her husband Mike Arroyo, the Ombudsman said yesterday.

At the House of Representatives, opposition congressmen filed yesterday a resolution seeking an inquiry into the legislative procedures accompanying the grant of franchises to two telecom firms at the center of the controversy.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that Ms Macapagal's detractors were probably "barking up the wrong tree."

"It's difficult to envision that (Arroyo) is involved given the fact that he was the one who opened up this case. That's why I think he has no involvement," Perez said, referring to Arroyo's raising the topic of the alleged bribes in the franchise deal in a radio interview earlier this month.

"*Napakagago naman ng gumawa niyan dahil bakit doon sa* (Office of the First Gentleman) *pupunta, ano naman ang magagawa no'n* (The bribers were stupid. Why would they approach Arroyo? What could he do to help them)?" Perez told journalists.

"*Napakalabo*, super *labo*," Perez said when asked about the allegations that Arroyo accepted a bribe in exchange for the promised recall of at least one vetoed franchise bill. The veto is still in place.

Arroyo's functions as First Gentleman do not include efforts to convince his wife to reconsider vetoes of bills, Perez told a news conference.

The President was expected to submit the findings of her own in-

PROBE/ A14

THE WAY it was: Then Vice President Macapagal and Bing Rodrigo are photographed clasping each other's hand during a party at the Macapagals' La Vista residence three years ago.

ROGELIO MEDINA

Telecom industry backs Palace veto

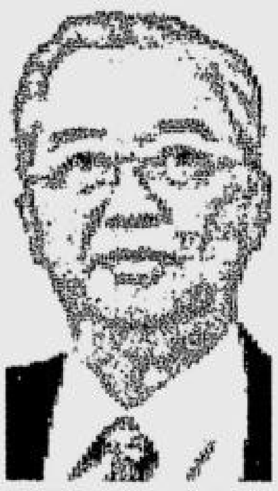
By Abigail L. Ho
and Christine Avendaño

A CLEARINGHOUSE will create a "monopoly backbone," the telecommunications industry warned yesterday as it expressed full support for President Macapagal-Arroyo's veto of a bill granting a congressional franchise to the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI).

"The industry is firm in supporting the veto because the bill is not a standard bill. It contained a provision that is not found in any other franchise bills enacted earlier," said Rodolfo Salalima, Globe Telecom senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs.

Salalima mentioned that he had reason to believe that there was a move to revive the

TELECOM/ A14



"KING" RODRIGO JR.: Is he or isn't he?

Mikey stands by Mike: 'I believe my dad is innocent'

By Martin P. Marfil
and Tonette Orejas

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo's innocence of the accusation of bribery is something that his wife and his eldest son are swearing by.

"I believe my dad is innocent," the son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, told the INQUIRER yesterday in San Fernando City. "They've got no proof. In fact, my mom did not recall the veto."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao reiterated her conviction that her husband was not involved in supposed attempts to have a vetoed telecommunications franchise bill recalled.

Tiglao made the remark at a press briefing, in connection with an announcement that three friends of the First Gentleman had been included in the "internal investigation" conducted by the President.

"The friends were not named but they are included," Tiglao said. "Of course, she is also looking into (their participation) from her own personal network. And as I've said before, she's convinced that the First Gentleman isn't involved at all."

Vice Governor Arroyo said he and the President had not talked about the matter personally or over the phone.

He did not say if his opinion was based on the affidavit that his mother was to file regarding her investigation of the claim made by Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, her former correspondence secretary, that the First Gentleman had taken a bribe.

"I know my dad. He would not do that," the vice governor said, adding that he was not taking offense at the allegation now hounding his father.

"We are in a democracy," he said. "I feel that those in the opposition can say what they want. I respect them for that. But let there

MIKEY/ A14

STRANGERS WHEN THEY MET

But not after a chance encounter of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizoumi and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on a train from Tokyo to Nagoya.

SSS workers want Nañagas out, stage nationwide walkout

By Andrea T. Echavez and Ayan C. Mellejor

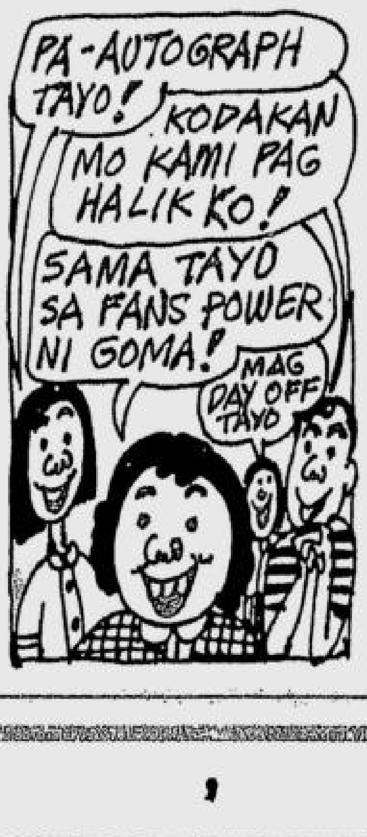
EMPLOYEES and top executives of the Social Security System yesterday walked out of their offices as part of nationally coordinated mass actions to demand the ouster of SSS president and chair Vitaliano Nañagas.

"It is apparent that (Nañagas) cannot run a big organization like the SSS. We are collapsing because of his inefficiency as a manager," Dr. Carol Basilio, president of the Alert and Concerned Employees for Better SSS (Access), told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Access members said that Nañagas was the cause of all the problems at the SSS and that they would continue their protest actions until Malacañang replaced him.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had

SSS/ A4



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MAG DAY OFF TAYO

Goma: Rally, yes; people power, no

By Andrea T. Echavez,
Leah Salterio
and Gerald Lacuarta

YOUR Honor, you are out of order!

Militant groups yesterday belittled the supposed threat by actor Richard Gomez to resort to "people power" to block the proclamation of the winners in the party-list election.

They said Gomez, whose party-list group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) was

GOMA/ A4

'WAG NA SANANG MAKATAKAS YAN!

Abu trying to leave Basilan

Bandit group feeling the heat of pursuit operations, says military

By Carlito Pablo and Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ABU Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya is attempting to break out of Basilan with American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham in tow, the military said yesterday.

Although Sabaya, aka Aldam Tilao, still manages to air his familiar threats, the bandit group is feeling the heat from the unrelenting military operation against them, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the Armed Forces spokesman, said.

"The world of Abu Sabaya is getting smaller and smaller every day," Adan said in a press briefing.

The general said the Abu Sayyaf is believed to be using decoys in Basilan as a cover for Sabaya so he "can ship out."

Adan said one of these was a report claiming that Sabaya and the hostages have reached the coastal town of Sumisip in southern Basilan.

From Sumisip, the gunmen can take a speedboat straight to Sulu.

But Adan said "it could be another decoy."

Several days ago, Adan had reported that the Abu Sayyaf had moved out of the Sampinit complex in Basilan's jungled interior to the coastal towns of Tuburan and Lamitan in the east.

Adan said an encounter with government soldiers had occurred at the Tuburan area, bolstering intelligence reports that the main body of Abu Sayyaf forces was still there.

Shortest escape route

The shortest escape route out of these two towns would take the Abu Sayyaf to the Zamboanga peninsula, Adan said.

"Our troops will soon get him," he said.

There are eight military battalions operating against the Abu Sayyaf in the province.

Adan said that Sabaya had yesterday threatened to burn Christian churches in Basilan in a call placed to the Radio Mindanao Network station in Zamboanga City.

Though Sabaya did not identify himself radio staff members familiar with his calls said it was the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson, he said.

In Basilan, Gov. Wahab Akbar said the Army's performance in operations against the Abu Sayyaf as "much improved" after various advanced and high-tech war equipment were made available to soldiers and local officials.

Akbar said satellite phones were distributed to the different field commanders and seven town mayors last month.

He said Army chief Gen. Jaime delos Santos has assured that more night vision goggles, thermal imaging that can reach as far as 500 meters, rigging belt, more firearms and ammunition would be distributed.

Spy planes

Delos Santos has also announced the possible use of remote-controlled aircraft or spy planes.

"These are necessary to enhance the combat capability of our troops in terms of equipment and mobility," he told reporters at a press briefing at the 103rd Army Brigade headquarters in Barangay Tabiawan in Isabela, Basilan, yesterday.

But he said the acquisition of such high-tech aircraft was still in the planning stage, as part of the discussions on the Armed Forces modernization program.

But Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the 103rd Army Brigade chief, in a separate interview said spy planes were already part of the modernization program and were now being tested in the country.

He would not say where the spy planes are being tested.

"There had been tests on prototypes, but not in Basilan, and we hope that they can be tested here soon," Esperon said.

Traders split over Gloria's tax reforms

By Gil Cabacungan

BUSINESS leaders are divided over the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's plan to overhaul the country's tax system, particularly the shift to a gross income tax regime, because it is not clear whether the change would result in higher or lower taxes for businesses.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said the finance department's proposal to shift the corporate income tax from 32 percent net income tax to a 20 to 26 percent gross income tax would mean higher tax payments for corporations.

"This is not the correct time to do it because all companies are experiencing losses or depressed margins due to the global recession and an open market economy where tariffs are due to fall to 5 percent next year," Concepcion said.

The FPI's stance contrasts with that of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines which has come out in support of the proposed modified gross income tax system announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State-of-the-Nation Address last week.

Open to tax reforms

Concepcion said, however, that, like Ecop, the FPI was supporting the planned reform of the income tax system for fixed-income earners.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said the MBC was open to the proposed tax reform but would like to review the terms of the plan before stating whether to support it or not.

Luz said businessmen are mainly concerned over how the gross income would be computed; whether it would be voluntary or compulsory; and what the tax rates would be.

Concepcion noted that the plan was not really new as corporations are already given the choice whether they want to be taxed on a gross or net income basis, provided they stick to their choice for at least 3 years.

He said the FPI had conducted a study in 1996 which showed that the gross income tax rate should be between 10 and 15 percent for the manufacturing sector and 6 and 10 percent for services for it to have a neutral effect on companies' bottom lines.

The FPI plans to update the study to see if its results are still valid.

Objections

Concepcion said companies were opposed to a gross income tax system for the following reasons: some of them make very little profits; there is no criteria to establish what should be booked as cost of production and services; it is not clear whether multinationals are to be given foreign tax credits on taxes paid on gross income.

Instead of reforming the tax system, Concepcion said the government should focus on improving collection and not burden corporations that are already paying their taxes.

He also suggested clamping down on smuggling; establishing an audit trail on the value-added taxes paid; and matching sales against cost of production to check whether companies were paying the right taxes.

De Villa back at Palace

FORMER executive secretary Renato de Villa will be returning to Malacañang to head a new office that will have wide-ranging concerns, informed sources said.

De Villa, who was replaced as executive secretary when he went on leave to undergo a triple heart bypass operation last April, has been appointed Presidential Adviser on Strategic Concerns, the sources said.

His appointment papers were signed on July 9 and released on July 20.

One of the sources said that De Villa's functions were unclear but his new office's scope was quite "wide" as it will cover security, economic, domestic and international concerns.

It was also not clear if the new office would be directly under President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Alberto Romulo, the finance secretary, took over De Villa's old job.

Martin P. Marfil

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Mayon spews steam, lava

LEGAZPI CITY—Jet-like roars and columns of steam issued from the restive Mayon Volcano yesterday as authorities repeated warnings of another violent explosion.

Mountain villagers continued to trickle into already overcrowded evacuation centers, straining emergency resources, as lava fountained 50 meters above the volcano, emergency workers said.

Jason Aragon, of the civil defense office, said about 47,000 people from 31 villages crammed evacuation centers outside the danger zone and more were arriving yesterday, four days after the latest explosive eruption.

He said "calamity funds" from one village—to buy rice, sardines, corned beef and noodles for evacuated residents—had run out and the reserves of another were seriously depleted.

But funds from the national government were making up for the shortage, he said.

Most evacuees had just returned home from another lengthy evacuation following a June 24 eruption when the volcano blew again unexpectedly last Thursday, belching ash clouds 10 km high and jetting lava 60 meters into the air.

Aragon said authorities may allow villagers who live in the danger zone, but not in the direct path of possible mud flows and lava columns, to return home to ease the strain.

"We cannot take chances. Certain areas are really at high risk for the dangerous effects of pyroclastic flows and surges," provincial disaster officer Cedric Daep said.

Scientists said a new eruption could come any time.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said "jet-like roaring sounds" and high concentrations of sulfur dioxide above the volcano indicate magma is close to the surface and cited Mayon's "significant potential to erupt more explosively."

Ed Villacorte, a volcanologist who visited Mayon's slopes yesterday the volcano was still restive with lava shooting upward at a height of 50 meters.

Meanwhile, an earthquake of tectonic origin and with an intensity of three was felt in Legazpi City at 1:14 p.m. yesterday.

Authorities could not say whether the quake had any connection with the Mayon Volcano eruption.

Regional health officials also fear a possible outbreak of dengue in the evacuation camps.

The health department, which expects the dengue season this year to last well into September, said this could be aggravated by the Mayon eruptions that have sent almost 50,000 people to various emergency shelters around the volcano.

A total of 188 cases have been reported in the Bicol region since January, against 156 cases during the same period last year, health department records showed. *AP with a report from Rey Nasol and Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RP, US tackle 'open skies'

US aviation officials yesterday pushed for a bilateral "open skies" agreement with the Philippines that would allow unlimited access to each other's air space, Filipino officials said.

A team led by Dan Fantozzi, director for aviation negotiations at the US Department of State, engaged their counterparts here in a cordial three-hour "exploratory" meeting on the issue, transportation undersecretary for aviation Alan Tan said.

"It was a productive exchange of ideas, no commitments were made. It was basically to keep both our minds open," Tan told reporters afterwards.

The Americans were told to formally submit their case to the Philippines' Civil Aeronautics Board, the agency that could convene a negotiating panel.

The US Embassy has said the Americans were tasked to negotiate a bilateral or multilateral agreement for an "open skies relationship" involving both countries.

The proposal would remove restrictions on routes, capacities, flight frequencies and fare pricing, department officials said.

Local air carriers would be consulted on the US proposal, Tan said, adding that they would also be invited to a "consultative panel" to be formed by the civil aeronautics office. *AFP*

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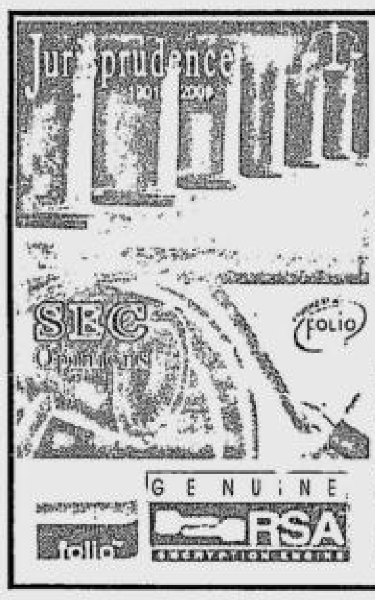

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SSS workers want Nañagas out, stage nationwide walkout

(From page A1)

formulated a solution to the problem and was expected to make an announcement today.

In Davao City, top SSS executives including vice president for Mindanao Eddie Jara and regional manager Pablo Orilla joined some 200 Access members and other workers in a mass leave of absence.

"This is an interaction day for Access and the executives. We are supporting the union," lawyer Jara said.

According to Jara, 99 percent of the SSS executives led by its executive vice president Horacio Templo are one with Access members in the call for Nañagas' removal.

Jara said a "skeleton force" composed of 25 contractual workers and some junior officers were maintaining services to the public, but that "backroom operations" including the processing of benefits and membership claims had slowed down.

Access members were to hold a prayer vigil last night in front of the SSS central office in Quezon City.

They are also planning a three-day strike to compel Malacañang to replace Nañagas.

Basilio quoted a "very reliable source" as saying that Nañagas and Joel Palacios, SSS vice president for media affairs, had allocated P11 million in the agency's funds for a "media budget."

She quoted the source as saying that at least P100,000 had been allotted for news editors and station managers of various newspapers and radio and television stations.

She said Access would present evidence backing this in the next few days.

Palacios retorted that Basilio should not make such a sweeping accusation if she had no "concrete evidence."

"But she must remember that the SSS is a government institution and is subject to review by the Commission on Audit," he said in a phone interview.

Basilio earlier raised the suspicion that certain media institutions had taken bribes to dissuade them from covering the protest actions at the SSS.

The SSS employees had been holding pickets during lunch breaks since May to denounce the government's earlier plan to privatize the state pension agency and to demand Nañagas' ouster.

When the President announced that the government would no longer sell SSS, they insisted that Nañagas be replaced.

No compromise

At 10 a.m. yesterday, Eddie Jara said he had received a call from Manila saying that the President, Camacho and other SSS officials were deliberating on Nañagas' fate.

"Hopefully, we can have a decision within this week. There will be no compromise," Jara said.

He said Nañagas was the only SSS president who had no clear program when he assumed the post and who had no reforms to show after six months in office.

He added that Nañagas had forced SSS executives and branches to implement a "covenant of service" without introducing reforms to effectively implement its provisions.

The covenant is a program to improve services, which, according to Nañagas, is necessary to curb graft and corruption at the SSS branches.

But SSS executives said "there was never any insinuation of corruption at the counters of any SSS office."

"We are not resisting (the covenant). But he is accusing us of resisting it," Jara said.

Palacios belittled Access' demand that Nañagas be replaced, and said that those threatened by the reforms initiated by the SSS president might be behind the protest actions.

"Are (the rank-and-file employees) competent to judge if the management style of president Nañagas is good or not?" he said.

Palacios said that since Nañagas was appointed to the SSS, he had tried to implement reforms that would cut the procedures in loan applications.

Apparently, Palacios said, "some people were hit" in the process.

"You know how it is in the government service. We have this attitude of turf and patronage and usually, people resist change," he said.

Serious reforms

Tiglao said the unrest at the SSS was somewhat similar to that which occurred earlier at the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

He said that according to Camacho's investigation, Nañagas had been undertaking "some serious reforms" in the SSS—"actually an investigation of the cases regarding the behest investments."

"Having said that," Tiglao said, "we acknowledge that there might have been a problem in terms of the management style of Mr. Nanagas, and this could be revised or changed."

Agence France Presse quoted Access spokesperson Boyet Competente as saying that Nañagas had abolished "all personnel-related committees" without consulting employees and hired executives without consulting the hiring and promotions board, as mandated by law.

He was also pushing to privatize the SSS, which would lead to job cuts, Competente said.

But Tiglao said that there was no such privatization plan, and that SSS management was only seeking outside consultants to help manage its investments.

The SSS, which is made up of private employees' contributions, has funds amounting to P165 billion.

Tiglao also appealed for sobriety from the employees, saying their protest actions could delay the processing of retirees' loans.

Housing

In her State of the Nation Address on July 23, the President committed state funds to finance her housing program—P5 billion from the SSS; P5 billion, Government Service Insurance System; and P1 billion, Pag-Ibig.

"About (1.5 million SSS members in La Union, the Cordillera, the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley) have not been able to tap these resources to build their own homes, and Gloria is giving their money to Payatas (in Quezon City)," an SSS employee said.

Lawyer Rogelio Atos said the SSS was vulnerable to privatization plans because of previous investments.

He said the SSS' biggest loss had been a P200-million investment in the controversial Expo Filipino, facilitated by then President Fidel Ramos.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada's realignment of SSS funds to buy shares in Belle Corp. was smaller in comparison, only because the shares continue to earn SSS P6 billion, according to the first-quarter securities report.

But Atos said that Estrada's transaction still meant "an income reduction from P17 billion to P6 billion," and that the SSS was awaiting a "return on investment" from the Expo Filipino deal.

"Any investment means a risk, which holds contributors hostage. But the SSS track record will never show a zero profit. It earned in most of these deals, and Nañagas should not paint a different picture to justify his privatization agenda," Atos said.

First time

Evelyn Sayon, assistant vice president for Southern Mindanao, said SSS supervisors in cities like San Pablo, Baguio and Cebu had walked out.

Abraham Matuco, Access representative for Southern Mindanao, said SSS branches in the cities of Digos and Tagum had likewise joined the protest action.

"This is the first time in the history of SSS that we are doing this," Matuco said Sunday. "We have weighed all the consequences, like administrative sanctions—that's normal in the government and even in the private offices."

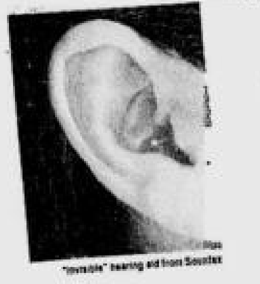
Access recently joined the Solidarity to Oppose Privatization (or Stop Privatization).

"There is no valid reason the government should privatize something that it does not own," it said in a statement.

Last Thursday, SSS employees in Baguio City walked out of their regional office on Harrison Road without knowing that the nationwide walkout that was supposed to have been led by employees in the main office in Quezon City had been put off.

Atos, lawyer of the SSS regional cluster office in Baguio, said it had been plagued by complaints from members who expected to tap calamity loans.

In Bulacan, SSS employees in Malolos, Sta. Maria, Baliuag and Meycauayan towns also walked out during their lunch break Wednesday. *With reports from Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Martin P. Marfil in Manila; AFP*



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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 1642 SERIES OF 2001

Goma: Rally, yes; people power, no

(From page A1)

disqualified by the Commission on Elections last week, was probably harboring the illusion that he could mobilize millions of people for his cause.

Gomez will lead a protest rally in front of the Commission on Elections at 1 p.m. today.

According to Bayan Muna legal counsel Neri Colmenares, Gomez had threatened in an interview over ABS-CBN on Saturday that MAD can mobilize another people power with the more than a million people who voted for his group.

Yesterday, however, Gomez downplayed his supposed threat of another people power.

"That's rather exaggerated," he said of the news report of his alleged threat.

"We only want a peaceful rally," Gomez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "We're holding a peaceful rally to voice out our opinion."

He said that through the rally, his group hoped to compel the Supreme Court and the Comelec to overturn their decisions on the party-list issue.

Gomez branded as "unfair" the decision to disqualify MAD from the party-list race.

"Our sentiment is that why will you accredit us, allow us to run and get the votes, then disqualify us?" Gomez complained. "We do not want all our efforts to be wasted, that's why we are holding a rally."

The Comelec disqualified MAD and 17 other party-list groups in the top 24 because they did not appear to represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors.

The Comelec said MAD, whose main nominee was Gomez, was funded by the government.

'Tour de force performance'

Gomez yesterday received flak for his alleged threat to launch a people power.

"Your Honor, no amount of tour de force performance can overturn the general sentiment of the public against bogus party-list group like MAD," said Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

His statement was a take-off from Gomez's television drama, "Your Honor," where he plays a private lawyer.

"The people will not join you in any campaign of personal persuasion, legal action and congressional pressure just to discredit the real winners and their representatives," Ramos added.

"Your Honor, you are out of order for defending an Estrada-dominated party-list group in this honorable people's court," said Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz.

"Mr. Gomez is distorting and giving people power a bad name. People power does not rest on popularity. Not even the star of a TV show like him could mobilize millions of people for a sick and dishonorable cause," he said.

The group Sanlakas also scoffed at Gomez's plan to mobilize a large number of people.

"If Mr. Gomez could really muster and mobilize that big number of people to protest, why confine his cause to the party-list issue alone?" Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, said in a telephone interview with the PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.

"Definitely, there are more pressing social concerns than the party-list issue," Fortaleza added.

Only 7 qualified

Only seven in the top 24 party-list groups passed a Comelec review on whether they meet the criteria for the party-list election.

These are Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Luzon Farmers Party (Butil), Anak Mindanao (Amin), Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda (ABA), Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas.

Based on the latest (July 4) party-list canvass report, only Bayan Muna, Akbayan and Butil appeared to have garnered the minimum number of votes required to get seats in the House of Representatives.

But a possible qualifier, Amin, which has only 1.68 percent of the party-list votes as of the July 4 report, was expecting to get 2.26 percent once its 80,000 missing votes from Tawi-Tawi are restored.

A group needs to get at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for the party-list election to get one seat in the House.

ABA, Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas were able to get only 1.61, 1.43 and .99 percent, respectively, but are hoping to climb to 2 percent once the votes garnered by the 17 disqualified groups are invalidated and deducted from the base total.

Apec, not a gov't arm

A consultant of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec), which was also disqualified by the Comelec, yesterday said the poll body mistook for state subsidy the mandatory state loan to 119 rural electric cooperatives.

The Comelec had said that Apec appeared to be a mere political arm of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperative Inc., which received a P10-million loan from the National Electrification Administration in 1991. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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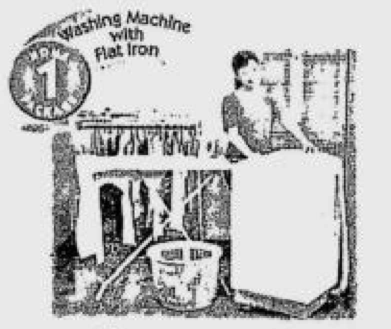
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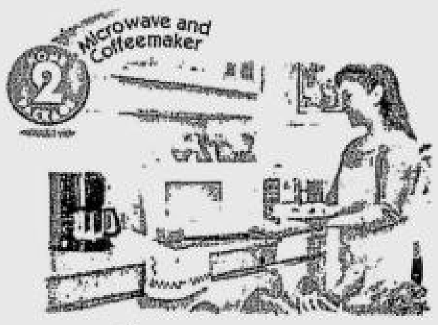

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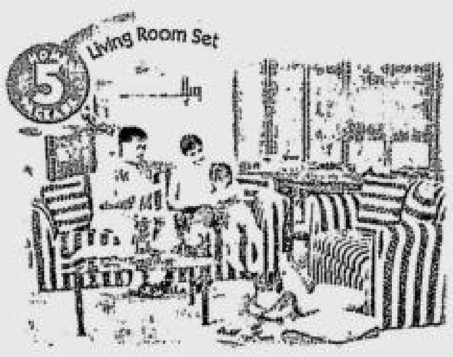

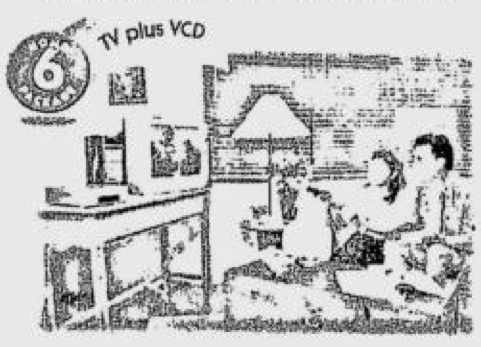

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1170 Series of 2001.

Meralco cuts power . . .

(From page A1)

wholesale billing and the distributor's retail billing cycle, consumers would feel the benefits later.

Ocampo said customers of Meralco would see the reduction in their bills by August because the ERC had coordinated with the distribution utility.

"Other consumers would see this in their bill by September," she said.

Ocampo said the reduction would be a separate item in the consumer's billing statement.

Meralco said the reduction would carry the label "Power Act Red'n" as specified in the ERC resolution.

"This item will reflect a customer's kwh consumption multiplied by the 30-centavo per kwh reduction," Meralco said.

Data from Meralco shows that two out of three of its 3.4 million residential customers use 200 kwh or less a month.

It said other components of its billing, such as the basic charge, PPA (purchased power adjustment) and currency adjustment "would be computed as before."

The rate reduction may be nullified if Meralco's petition for a 30-centavo per kwh rate increase is approved. Meralco filed the petition for a rate increase in April with the Energy Regulatory Board, the ERC's precursor.

Ocampo said distribution utilities and electric cooperatives would neither suffer revenue losses nor post gains because of the rate reduction.

But the 30-centavo rebate will mean P3.7 billion in foregone revenues for Napocor, according to date from the state-owned corporation. Residential consumers account for about a third of total power sales.

Critics of the Electricity Industry Reform Act had earlier alleged that the 30-centavo rebate was meant to lull the public into accepting the new law, which they said favored big companies.

The law also provides for the amortization of Napocor's above-market contract costs with independent power producers.

This will have additional charges of 25 to 30 centavos per kwh for a period of 15 to 20 years, according to critics.

Also yesterday, Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said the government was expecting to raise around P4 billion from the sale of its 10-percent stake in Meralco.

"We will definitely sell our stake in Meralco this year.

From the proposals we have received, investment banks say we could get around P4 billion," Camacho told reporters.

However, he added the estimate could vary depending on the method of the sale.

The Department of Finance previously said it planned to raise around P7 billion from state asset sales this year, of which Meralco would make up a substantial portion.

Sales from government assets are part of the government plan to help finance its budget deficit, expected to be P145 billion this year.

Camacho disclosed that the finance department had received proposals from six groups for handling the sale of the government's stake in Meralco.

Meralco A shares closed unchanged at P37, while its B shares, open to foreign ownership, ended down P2 at P44.5 pesos. *With reports from Ronnel W. Domingo and Reuters*

Mark Jimenez justifies P1M bail

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

MEDICAL need and concern for his 600,000 constituents in the sixth district of Manila were two of the "special circumstances" Mark Jimenez cited to assure the Supreme Court he is not about to skip the country and is therefore eligible for bail.

Jimenez filed yesterday a 41-page response to a petition for certiorari filed with the high court by the Department of Justice in behalf of the US government.

The American government wanted the court to nullify the P1-million bail granted to Jimenez by Manila Judge Guillermo Purganan, saying the congressman had not shown any special circumstances for which he should have been allowed to post bail.

Jimenez is out on bail while the extradition case against him is pending before the Supreme Court.

Jimenez is wanted in the US for tax evasion, mail fraud, conspiracy to defraud the US government and making illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

The US government expressed the fear that while he is out on bail, Jimenez might flee to a third country with whom it does not have an extradition treaty.

DIVIDING SENATE SPOILS

Opposition blocks Villar committee assignment

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE SENATE minority yesterday moved to block the bid of Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar to chair the agriculture committee as the majority coalition began taking over most of the big committee assignments.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the majority coalition had so far decided to nominate its members to 20 of 37 committees.

On the average, the majority senators got two committee chairmanships each, with Sen. Ramon Revilla snagging three for himself: public works, labor and environment and natural resources.

Drilon said that he expects the task of assigning the committee chairmanships and memberships today.

"We can offer committee chairmanships to members of the minority coalition, and likewise, the majority coalition has agreed to open the vice chairmanships to the minority," Drilon told reporters.

But he stressed that the blue ribbon committee will be chaired by a member of the majority.

He said Sen. Joker Arroyo, who is being eyed for the post, was "still clarifying certain structural issues in the support staff" of the committee.

But after Drilon's announcement, the minority moved to block the appointment of Villar as chair of the committee on agriculture.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel contended that Senate rules disallow the Senate president pro tempore to hold any committee chairmanships.

Pimentel said that under Rule 10, Section 20, the Senate president pro tempore is considered ex-officio chair of all committees.

"If we go by that rule, (the Senate president pro tempore) should no longer hold chairmanship of any committee," he said.

Arroyo objected, saying that this would leave Villar with nothing to do.

Pimentel retorted that Villar could always pray a novena or attend all the committee meetings.

"There are 1001 things he can do," he said.

The senators decided to defer a decision on the issue.

Drilon said the following senators would be nominated to the following committees:

Villar, agriculture; majority leader Loren Legarda, rules, accounts; Arroyo, public services; Sen. Robert Barbers, public order and illegal drugs, games and amusement and sports; Sen. Renato Cayetano, education; Sen. Noli de Castro, tourism, social justice, welfare and rural development; Sen. Juan Flavier, health and cultural communities; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., national defense and science and technology; Sen. John Osmeña, finance and local government; Sen. Francis Pangilinan, justice; and Sen. Ralph Recto, ways and means.

Comelec officials battered on all sides

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE COMMISSION on Elections is being battered on all sides.

Winners and losers took turns yesterday in scoring the poll body for its recent actions, or lack thereof.

Caloocan City officer-in-charge Rey Malonzo, party-list groups and the winning bidder in the shelved voters ID project came forward to air their respective grievances against the beleaguered poll body.

Guesting at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel forum, Malonzo threatened to file an impeachment case against the Comelec commissioners who he said were sitting on the Caloocan election issue.

Malonzo was referring to the delay in the decision on the petition filed by his challenger for mayor, former Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio Jr., asking the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in Caloocan due to alleged massive fraud and the disenfranchisement of voters.

"If there is no progress (on the petition) in the coming days, I will ask Congress to impeach those sitting on this case," Malonzo, who won reelection, said.

Officials of Photokina, which won the bidding for the P6.5 billion Voters Registration and Identification System, warned that continuing to delay implementation of the project would result in increased project costs.

At the same forum, Photokina spokesperson George Balagtas also said shelving the project would affect investor confidence in the country.

He said the American and French partners of Photokina, like IBM, Polaroid and Sagem, were getting bothered by the "politicization" of government bidding and procurement procedures.

"There will be serious repercussions if the VRIS is junked despite the transparent bidding and the awarding of the contract," Balagtas said. "This is being closely watched by foreign governments."

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra had earlier confirmed their attendance at the forum, but the two failed to show up.

Vic del Fierro, official nominee of Coalition 349 and chair of the Coalition of Marginalized Party-List Groups (CPAG) demanded Benipayo's resignation for the failure of the party-list elections.

He blamed the Comelec for allowing non-marginalized groups to run in the last elections.

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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 233
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Mad

EDITORIALS

THE COMMISSION on Elections may have made some wrong and unpopular decisions in the past, but for once it recently made a correct ruling. We are referring to its decision disqualifying supposedly "winning" party-list groups that "are not truly representative of marginalized sectors of society."

The Comelec decision disqualified, among other groups, the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (Mad), some political groups like the Provincial Movement for Devolution of Initiatives (Promdi) and some interest groups like the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) and Citizens' Battle against Graft and Corruption (Cibac). It also cleared the way for the proclamation—soon, we hope—of the winning party-list groups. It is a pity that the winning groups were not proclaimed in time for the opening of the 12th Congress, but better late than never.

While its recent decision is to be praised, we must fault the Comelec for not issuing its ruling earlier, even before the elections, so that the disqualified groups would not have wasted time, effort and funds in the election campaign.

Now, actor Richard Gomez, the party-list nominee of Mad, is threatening to use people power to stop the proclamation of the winners in the party-list contest. He is acting like a traditional politician who cannot and will not accept defeat. He should realize that this is not a whimsical decision of the Comelec. It was a decision prompted by a Supreme Court ruling and by a correct study and interpretation of the Constitution.

In its ruling on June 26, the Supreme Court said that only party-list participants representing marginalized or underrepresented sectors, organizations not funded or assisted by government funds and whose nominees belong to marginalized groups, are qualified. Political parties which registered under the party-list system are also disqualified unless they can show proof that they represent the interests of the marginalized and underrepresented.

Gomez threatens to unleash the 1.4 million people who voted for Mad in the elections to compel the Supreme Court and the Comelec to reverse their decisions on the party-list issue. Does he think decisions of the Supreme Court and a constitutional commission should be made on the basis of popularity and not on the bases of law and public interest?

Wrong argument

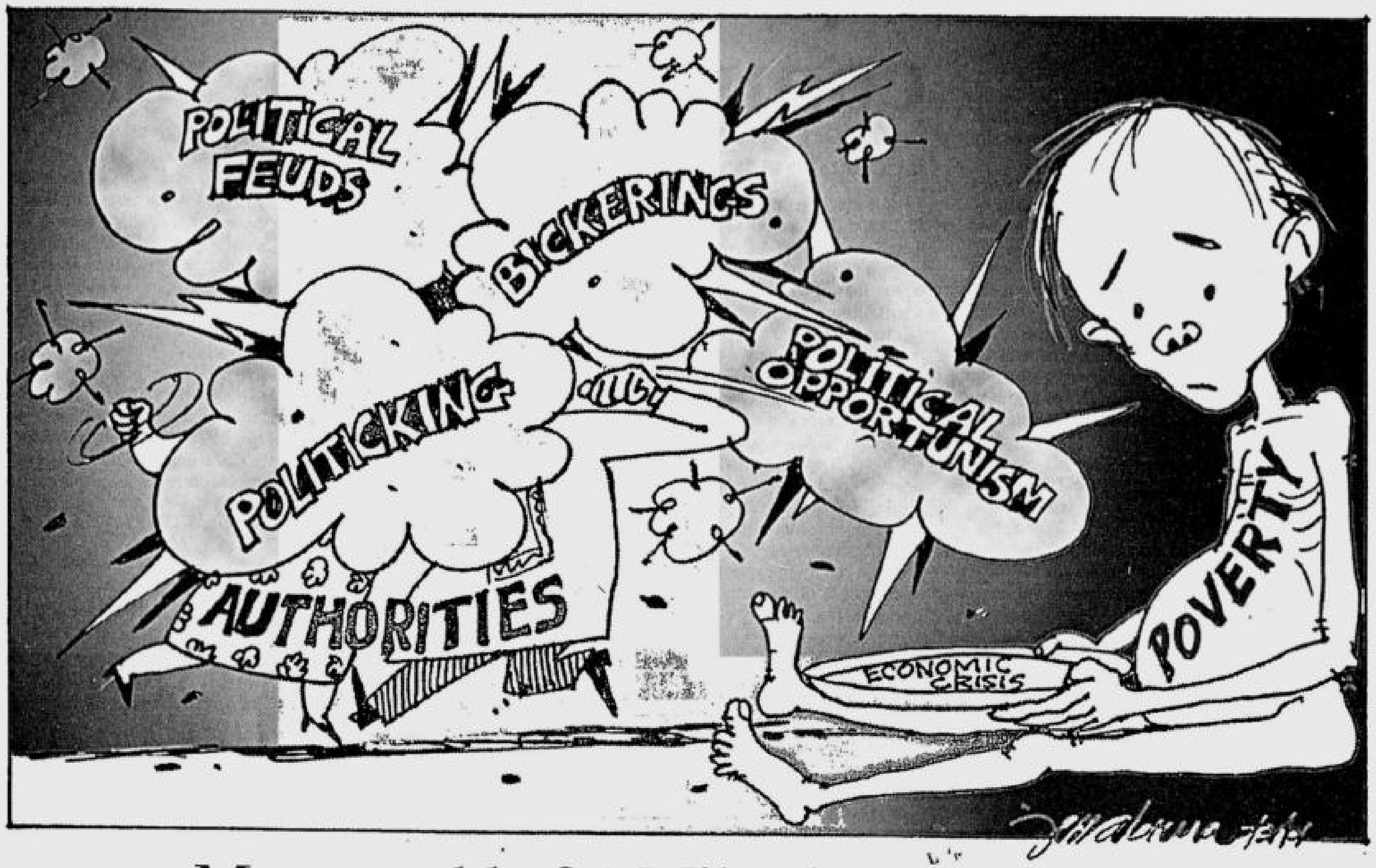
WE are in agreement with the objectives of Mad, but we do not believe it represents a marginalized sector of society. The organization itself is not a group of marginalized people. Not all the people it is supposed to serve—people who are being targeted by drug pushers—are marginalized. And in the first place, Gomez himself has admitted that Mad received P5 million last year from the government, a fact that in effect made it an agency of the government, and not a party-list group.

Gomez's contention that Mad should not be disqualified because it obtained 1.4 million votes is a wrong argument. It is unfortunate that the Comelec made its ruling after and not before the election, but it is a lawful ruling just the same, unless reversed by another, higher constitutional body. Gomez should listen to the suggestion of Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, herself a party-list representative, that those who do not agree with the decision should appeal it to the Supreme Court.

The decisions of the Supreme Court and the Comelec uphold the letter and spirit of the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution intended the party-list system to be a means to give representation to marginalized and underrepresented sectors which, because of lack of funds and lack of exposure, among other things, have a hard time getting their representatives elected to Congress.

The Comelec decision sets a precedent that should be a guide in future congressional elections. Henceforth, traditional politicians, influential and rich people are put on notice that they can't use the backdoor to enter Congress; they cannot use the party-list system as a cheap and easy way to get elected as representatives.

We commend the Supreme Court and the Comelec for their decisions which are a step toward giving the marginalized, the disadvantaged, the poorer sectors of society equal opportunity to get their representatives elected to Congress.



More trouble for Mike Arroyo at PCSO

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHEN First Gentleman Mike Arroyo returns to the country the day after tomorrow, he will have to answer more questions other than those relating to the alleged bribery case for the recall of the presidential veto on a telecommunications franchise bill. He will have to explain his role in the appointment of Virgilio R. Angelo as general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and his media consultant, Robert Rivero, who calls the First Gentleman "Ninong Mike."

Angelo is not content with just being PCSO general manager; he also had himself appointed as ex-officio vice chair and the sixth member of the board of directors in spite of the provision in the PCSO charter that there shall be only five members of the board. Angelo supervises the PCSO'S advertising budget of (hold your breath) P250 million.

Rivero, on the other hand, has been accused of demanding a 15-percent commission from all radio commercials, including those placed during the previous administration. According to columnist Ellen Tordesillas, when a PCSO insider was asked if Rivero would be fired, the former balked, saying that Rivero was "not Angelo's man." "Rivero calls the First Gentleman 'Ninong Mike,'" Tordesillas wrote. I don't know what she meant by that.

Tordesillas wrote further: "A member of the Makati Rotary Central District told us that they were told by fellow Rotarian Mike Arroyo that those who want government positions should not talk to him about it. The person to approach, he said, is fellow Rotarian Ephraim Genuino, whom he had installed as president and chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. " Angelo was one of those who took this advice.

But who is Angelo? Where did he come from?

According to the story, he is a former executive of the Bank of Philippine Islands who was appointed to a high position in the National Food Authority. But when he went to the NFA offices at E. Rodriguez Avenue, he was disappointed. The office to be assigned to him was not first-class.

Going out of the NFA, he espied the PCSO offices on the sprawling grounds of the Quezon Institute just across the street. Making inquiries, he allegedly found out that the chair has a fat salary and allowances, plus a P90,000 bonus for every sweepstakes draw and a P5-million discretionary fund.

Unfortunately for him, the position is occupied by Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. de Leon who happens to be the sister of former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, without whom there would have been no impeachment and plunder cases against Erap and no Edsa II that installed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President. Realizing that trying to oust "Honey Girl" was like crashing his head against a stone wall, he settled for general manager, which is also a powerful position. But he was not content with that. He also had himself appointed ex-officio vice chair and board member. Which created complications and problems for the PCSO, Malacañang and the First Gentleman.

It so happens that the PCSO charter (RA 1169, enacted on June 13, 1957 and amended by RA 1502, 1622 and 2064) provides for only five members of the board of directors. Angelo would increase the board membership to six which not only violates the charter but would also pose a problem to decision-making in the board in case of a tie.

Secretary Vicky Garchitorena of the Presidential Management Staff, however, cited RA 2254, enacted on June 18, 1959, a general law governing all government-owned or controlled corporations. Section 1 provides that the "general manager, president, governor, or administrator of a government-owned or controlled corporation shall be ex-officio the vice chair of the board." Under this law, Garchitorena said (Why is she giving the legal opinions when there is a presidential legal adviser? The PMS is supposed to perform only staff work), the PCSO general manager should be the vice chair.

However, RA 1169, the PCSO charter, was further amended by Batas Pambansa 42, which became effective on Sept. 24, 1979 The last paragraph of Section 1 provides: "It (the PCSO) shall have a board of directors, hereinafter designated as the board, composed of five members who shall be appointed and whose compensation and term of office shall be fixed by the President (Prime Minister)."

The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, which is the legal adviser of all GOCCs, ruled that RA 1169 was amended by RA 2254 but these were further amended by BP 42, institutionalizing again the previous board which shall now be composed of five members.

The OGCC said that "the enumeration in the last paragraph of Section 1 of BP 42 is exclusive in character. Being exclusive in character and following the maxim *'expressio unius est exclusio alterius,'* that is, the inclusion of one thing is the exclusion of another or the enumeration of particular things excludes the idea of something else not mentioned...and the general manager not being mentioned or included therein, is excluded from the composition of the board.

"The law is specific when it mentioned the Board shall be composed of five (5) members. It did not reinstate the provision in Sec. 1, RA 2254, that the general manager x x x shall be ex-officio the vice chair of the Board of Directors because the law did not intend it to be so."

Moreover, all the past general managers of the PCSO never assumed or performed the duties as vice chair of the board. In fact, the last general manager, Ricardo G. Golpeo whom Angelo replaced, was a member of the board before he was appointed as general manager but, like his predecessors, he did not serve as vice chair. When he was appointed general manager, he was deemed resigned as member of the board.

Why does Angelo want so much to be vice chair of the board? Because it is just a heartbeat away from the chairmanship.

Postscript

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DAN Songco wrote a very thoughtful letter last week on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address. Though it offers specific targets that you can pin the President down on, he said, he is unhappy about one thing. Which is that the President never mentioned the role of government's partners, chief of them civil society, or the NGOs, in achieving progress. It is good that the government knows what it wants, Songco said, but it is not good that the government thinks it can do the job alone.

"The clear direction and concrete commitments are very encouraging but the patronage tone of her governance framework is disturbing. I believe it is as important to build social capital as it is to deliver basic services. We NGOs have always said that the poor need to be involved both in deciding what they want and getting the services that they need. Ms Macapagal is either oblivious of this or she does not believe in this paradigm at all. This to me is scary."

The representatives of the NGO community have every reason to gripe. Without the NGOs—and the organized progressive groups—Ms Macapagal would not be there to remind them who's boss. It's not just that civil society did so much to oust Erap and restore decency back to the country, it's that Ms Macapagal did so little. It was civil society that was there from the start, standing up to Erap when no one would. Least of them Ms Macapagal, who looked pretty much only after herself and not the nation whose state she now feels qualified to deconstruct before the world. What made it especially bitter was that while forgetting to mention their prodigious contribution to ending tyranny in the past and present, Ms Macapagal did not forget to mention the dubious contribution of an obscure BIR official, Rene Bañez, to ending corruption in the future.

But Songco is right to say, never mind civil society or even the leftist groups that helped bring Ms Macapagal to power. What about the rest of the world? What about their role in assuring progress? What about the poor in particular? Are they just targets or passive recipients of government's newfound benevolence? Songco is right: The framework is scary. It is scary in that it not only assures failure—a government that can barely lift its head above water does not particularly inspire confidence when it vows to save everybody else from drowning—but that, even if government could do it, it assures despotism. The vision that government is the provider of all things, for which the citizens owe it unquestioning loyalty, is not a democratic one. It is an authoritarian one.

The defects of that vision, or framework, as Songco puts it, you see in the way Ms Macapagal treated the three kids from Payatas. No, I do not mean that she was rough with them, on the contrary she was very sweet with them, which is something she does very well, indeed automatically, when a camera is around. I mean look at what the President told them. It was never, "We will do these things together." It was always, "I will do these things for you."

The scene in fact was not unlike the one during the last presidential debate, when another girl from Payatas was trotted out on stage, and the presidential candidates were asked what they would do for her if they became president. The girl went to school in the daytime, trekking miles to get there, and picked through refuse the rest of her waking hours to help put food on the family table. It was her dream to finish her schooling and pluck her family from poverty.

Faced with this child, everyone rushed to say what programs they would make available for her posthaste. Nobody seemed to have realized that the question was not what they could do for her but what she could do for herself, with a little help from them. More than that, nobody seemed to have realized that the question was not what they could do for her but what she could do for **them**. Here was a wisp of a girl who had just taught her presumed betters a lesson in resilience, self-sacrifice and heroism. And no one had the humility enough to see it. Nobody had the sense enough to be awed by it.

It's the same case here. I don't know that the paper boats, which the kids presumably sent, are true, though the idea does require a strenuous suspension of disbelief to buy. And I don't know that the request of one of the boys to raze the mountain of garbage in Payatas is true. Maybe it is. But that is clearly not how most people beside the dump in Payatas see it. Certainly, that was not the case for the girl from Payatas who was presented before the presidential candidates some years ago. For her, as for her neighbors, that mountain of garbage is not a source of oppression, it is a source of livelihood. It is not a source of despair, it is a source of hope. You raze the mountain of garbage in Payatas simply because it is an aesthetic outrage or a symbol of national shame, you condemn them to death.

The poor are not lazy. They are not lacking in resourcefulness, they are not lacking in initiative, they are not lacking in ingenuity. Certainly, the poor of Payatas are not. If the President had truly been listening to the three kids, she would have heard something beyond their apparent demands. If it is true that the kids sent their message by means of *bangkang papels*, that is an exercise in resourcefulness and initiative and ingenuity worthy of Rizal himself (he has all those stories about the Pasig River). You do not patronize people who are able to think of something like that, even if they are kids. You do not tell them not to worry, they can count on you to make their dreams come true. They are quite able to take care of themselves; what they need is a government that would help them help themselves.

Songco is right: The people need to be involved in deciding what they want and getting the services they need. You don't allow for that and you will just be throwing cakes to the hungry.

Can of worms for opposition?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NOW that Sen. John Osmeña has mentioned the possibility that his colleague, Sen. Tito Sotto, could be implicated in the franchise bills controversy, we can expect the opposition in the Senate to back-pedal away from it. Already this is evident in the statements of Senators Nene Pimentel and Edgardo Angara urging President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to reveal the results of her own investigation of the controversy that has implicated her husband Mike Arroyo. But Ms Macapagal is smarter. She turned over the results to the Ombudsman, her reasoning probably being that the opposition senators should do their own digging if they wanted.

Osmeña, who was allied with deposed President Estrada until the so-called Edsa III, said Sotto has a lot of explaining to do as to how the franchise bills were processed in the Senate committee that Sotto headed during the Estrada administration, apparently without proper hearing and a quorum. "Nobody knew anything about the telecom franchise bill in the Senate," Osmeña said, adding that a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing appears inevitable.

* * *

The opposition has made a big thing of the claim of resigned Palace correspondence secretary Veronica Rodrigo that she has information that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and three friends of his are implicated in the bribery case. But the way things are turning out, the opposition may have just as much to answer in an investigation as Arroyo and Rodrigo. In its desire to destroy whatever moral ascendancy the Macapagal administration has over the Erap regime, it may have opened a can of worms.

Judging from various commentaries in the media, the Senate opposition appears to have reaped a lot of brickbats in the controversy. Not because Arroyo's reputation is squeaky clean, but because the general feeling is that if anyone has the right to criticize him, it cannot be the opposition senators who turned a blind eye to Erap's plunder.

* * *

Today is the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order. This is a good occasion to cite the recent special academic convocation held by the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University, led by president Bienvenido Nebres, which conferred some university awards. Among the awardees were Tabang Mindanaw, the massive multi-sectoral aid response to the Mindanao refugees where the INQUIRER, led by its president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, played a major role, and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), which has built a reputation for investigative journalism often as controversial as the subjects it investigates. Both got the public service awards. The doctor of humanities, honoris causa, this year went to Dom Bernardo Ma. Perez of the Benedictine Order, rector of San Beda College for 24 years and one of the few Filipinos regarded as a true "renaissance man."

The award for Fr. Bobby Perez is timely, for SBC celebrated the centennial of its founding last June. From this Holy Ghost College alumna, who was SBC's next door neighbor for 10 years, congrats to SBC on its centenary.

* * *

An architect by profession (he's helping design the Jesus Church on the Loyola campus), Father Bobby has been an art critic, writer and author of several major books on culture, leading educator and a host of other things. He was even the technical director, stage manager and set-and-lighting designer for the Bayanihan Dance Co. which had its New York premier in the Winter Garden Theater in 1959 and then criss-crossed the United States. Among those who watched that Bayanihan performance in New York was a West Point cadet named Cunanan, who was absolutely enthralled by the beauty of the dancers and awfully proud of them as a Pinoy. Father Bobby is also remembered in contemporary history as the SBC rector to whom President Cory Aquino entrusted her most precious possession, the letters of Ninoy, at the height of the rebel attack on Malacañang when she didn't know whether she would live or die.

* * *

For history students, Father Perez made an interesting footnote when he recalled during the awards ceremony how the Jesuits "saved" the Benedictine Order worldwide and made it possible to be established in the Philippines. In the 19th century, religious houses in Spain were suppressed by the state, and after many years, they were allowed to reopen on condition that they would be sent to the missions in the colonies. With government approval, the Benedictine Abbey of Monserrat in Barcelona reopened its novitiate in 1885 as Colegio de Misioneros de Ultramar, 50 years after it had closed. Unfortunately, it found out that no mission areas were available abroad. Without a mission overseas, the Benedictine order faced closure once more.

* * *

"But the Lord somehow provides," said Father Perez, and the "instruments of Divine Providence" were the Jesuits. Under an agreement signed in June 1895 by Benedictine Abbot Jose Deas and Fr. Pablo Pastells, then secretary of the Jesuit province of Aragon, the Jesuits turned over to the Benedictines some of their missions and parishes in Surigao. Thus, on Sept. 12, 1895, 14 Benedictine monks arrived in Manila and erected the order's foundation in Asia. When they arrived, the Jesuits greeted them with the question, "What have you done with the sword of St. Ignatius?"

Thus, by its act of generosity, said Father Perez, the Jesuit order not only enabled the Benedictines to establish its first beachhead in Asia, but also rescued the Abbey of Monserrat and insured its survival during a critical moment of its history.

* * *

But that was not the end of the story. In 1899, the Benedictine monks and the Jesuits in Surigao were arrested and imprisoned by a revolutionary Filipino group. Volunteer troops led by a retired military officer overcame the *revolucionarios* and rescued the monks and the Jesuits. That experience proved traumatic, and the monks decided to leave Surigao and return to Manila; they considered another apostolate, and not long afterwards El Colegio de San Beda opened on June 17, 1901. The Jesuits, true to their reputation as the marines of the Church, remained in Mindanao.

At the inauguration of San Beda, its first rector declared that the school "comes to the arena with the sole purpose of helping to defend the Catholic battlements in the field of education." Fighting words, said Father Perez, reflecting the mission of Catholic schools at that time. After 100 years, he added, "we may not be as militantly defensive, but we are painfully aware of the need to strengthen the faith and raise it to the faith that does works of justice; the faith that actively shares in works of salvation, ridding society of dehumanizing misery and dehumanizing corruption."

Urgent questions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BEFORE WE touch on matters of less import, my friend Jim Paredes requests that we "refocus our attention (on) some questions and observations of national concern and interest." Here they are:

1) If they do find Bentain's body in that drum full of cement, would that constitute "concrete" evidence against Ping Lacson?

2) If Erap, as his lawyers claim, is entitled to house arrest, would Atong Ang who is reportedly now in the mall business in America, be allowed "mall arrest" if he gets charged with plunder? Would people who want him arrested but given humane treatment be shouting, "Put Ang in a mall"?

3) As a sign of reaching out to our Muslim brothers and in the spirit of reconciliation, would you agree to reduce the charge against Abu Sabaya from "kidnapping with ransom" to "involuntary vacation and unauthorized request for tithing?"

4) Is it true that the opposition is pushing for Mike Arroyo's investigation in the hope that if he is found guilty, Gloria will support the divorce bill?

5) Is it true that text messaging to GMA has been stopped and that she will only receive messages sent via paper boat through the Pasig River?

6) Should ROTC be abolished? Can we effectively communicate without these letters?

7) Would "Gloria's Sona" be a great name for a massage parlor?

Thanks, Jim, for providing the questions. Would any readers out there want to provide some answers to these urgent queries?

* * *

ALTERNATIVE occupations for the First Gentleman, currently in exile but only temporarily so they say, have come streaming into my e-mailbox. A former associate of Mike Arroyo's, for instance, chided me for forgetting one key security occupation that would be ideal for the rotund Mr. Arroyo. Why not name him the President's "official food taster?" he asks. It would fulfill the First Gentleman's obvious love for fine food, while ensuring the survival of his spouse. And what better way for a husband to prove his love for his wife than to take a bullet (or rather, rat poison, cyanide or salmonella) for her?

A friend suggests a more "paternal" designation: that of official carrier. Whenever our petite President gets lost in the midst of an adoring crowd, it shall be the First Gentleman's duty to hoist her up on his shoulders, thereby ensuring that she would tower over even the thickest throng.

Mr. Arroyo could also make himself useful by making sure that he carries a working microphone in his pocket wherever the President goes. That way, should the need arise for a human mike stand for the President, "Mike" can rush to her side and hold a microphone before her. There is a vacancy for this position, what with Sen. Nene Pimentel apparently resigning from the post.

Nathaniel Galapon has a less risky alternative occupation for the President's husband. "Let the President create a website that has both an e-mail and a postal address," he suggests. "Let the people write to her about the nation's concerns/criticisms, etc., and it will be (her husband's) duty to collate all the data. The top concern of the people for the year should then be the President's priority for the coming one. That should keep (Mr. Arroyo) busy for a while...and out of harm's way, with the added benefit of the people reaching the President through a 'backdoor' as in the time of Eleanor Roosevelt who was FDR's link to the public. What do you think?"

* * *

A FEW weeks back, I wrote about the plight of Filipino World War II veterans, many of whom survived the debacle of Bataan, the infamous Death March, and the hellish conditions of the Japanese concentration camps, only to fall prey to post-war politics and lingering colonialism.

The most obvious vestige of this post-war betrayal was the 1946 Rescission Act, which sought to disfranchise Filipino war veterans in exchange for a few measly millions in war damages. The rank duplicity and racism of the American government in the years after the war have been very slowly recognized. Only recently have American authorities begun belatedly making up for the injustice, first by "allowing" the veterans to come to the States in order to work on their papers, then allowing the veterans to follow-up their status from the Philippines. But so far, no word yet on whether the government would be willing to give the veterans over 50 years' worth of backpay and benefits.

* * *

IT MAY have taken them long before finding a collective voice, but veterans and their supporters are now exercising their right to demand that the US government live fully to its commitment to abide by the "Battling Bastards of Bataan."

Just a few days ago, according to a statement released by Migrante, an NGO working for the rights of Filipino migrants, some 200 Filipino World War II veterans, community members and young people, many of them not even Filipino-Americans, burned symbolic copies of the infamous 1946 Rescission Act as they closed a two-hour long rally at the INS-Federal building in downtown Los Angeles.

Faustino Baclig, coordinator of the "Justice for Filipino Veterans" (JFAV) campaign, singled out the young people of Asian, African-American, Mexican and other ethnicities who came out in numbers to support the veterans. "We are assured that the next generations will continue our struggle despite US Congress' inaction on our generation's campaign for justice and equity," he said.

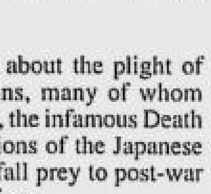
More than 50 "determined" Filipino veterans led the hour-long picket, which culminated in a march to the "Peoples CORE" office. Afterwards, they held an hour-long forum on community and veterans equity issues.

Said another organizer: "This rally is proof of the multiracial solidarity and wide support the veterans' just cause enjoys."

Diaspora

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



YOU see them in almost all the airports whether on their way out or coming home for a visit, these latter-day heroes and heroines. Seldom do you see them alone. There's always a group exchanging stories, comparing notes. You notice they laugh easily despite the burdens they carry. As one of them told me you have to be a bit crazy, a little off to be able to deal with the loneliness. Who will leave father and mother, wife or husband, children and everything that is familiar and dear to one if he had a choice?

While I was off to get an immersion in the politics of Eastern Europe, there were some seamen on their way to Dubai to join their tanker Sea World that brings oil to Galveston, Texas, and then returns to Dubai. For nine months, 40 of these men go back and forth, never stepping on dry land. The tanker, they say, is huge and as tall as a 10-story building. They meet only at meals and there's a room for watching TV or movies, but how many can you watch in nine months?

One of the men was from Bulacan, and he had been at sea for six years. Still single, he said he had no time for romance as he was too busy providing money for his parent's house and helping his brothers and sisters. He had spent his savings of P500,000 the past six months of his vacation on the construction but the second floor remained unfinished.

The other man got married recently and now had a child. His house cost him P1.5 million and it was still unfinished. This was his 13th trip abroad.

Other seamen came and joined them, and I imagined their stories weren't much different—only the loneliness was a constant. Still they felt lucky that at least they had jobs. But while these overseas workers have been hailed as heroes since their remittances have propped up the economy for more than a decade, I do not know that they get any special privileges. I mean I've seen members of Congress leave and there are all kinds of people "facilitating" their departures (as well as their arrivals). And hey, these present-day "heroes" of ours go economy. Given the state of government finances, remember that newly appointed director of an agency who flew first-class to New York with all his *alalay* in tow to attend another of those ridiculous conferences? That was courtesy of those seamen and other overseas workers, I guess. I wonder if anyone rapped his knuckles and asked to see the bill for that junket.

On the way home, there was a stopover in Changi for an hour and a half, and again the departure area was full of men and women, but more women this time, toting extra bags and packages, carrying stuffed toys and boxes of chocolates. You can't help hearing their stories and it takes great effort not to feel bitter that the opportunism of their leaders has led the country to a state where it can't even produce the rice to feed its people.

I was listening to this woman recount how she hadn't been home in six years, not even when her two grandchildren died in an accident. "*Sayang lang ang pera;* 700 pounds *yata,* back and forth. *Mabuti pa ipadala nalang,*" she said. But now she was back, courtesy of her *amo* who was very good, to see if she could bring back to London her 25-year-old daughter. In another year she herself would qualify for residency. She has traveled to Germany with her present employer and to Austria, which she didn't like because it was too cold there.

"*Tendera lang ako sa banqueta noon,*" she said. But then her husband left her with five small children, so what was she to do? Her youngest was only eight at the time. Another, a boy, ended up in drugs, but was, thank God, placed in rehab by his grandmother and was now all right. Her neighbors were sympathetic but they couldn't do anything for her family. Ten years have passed since then. One wonders if these children ever got to know their mother.

Her first job was in Kuwait, where she kept running away from the Arabs who were *salvaje.* Some didn't feed her, others imprisoned her or beat her up. One of them even sold her to a Sri Lankan to get his money back. She went through nine different *amos* until she finally found a kind one who was a diplomat. This one took her to London with his family, but when he had to return to Kuwait she put on four pairs of underwear, several jogging suits, plenty of socks and ran away at dawn. She didn't know where she was going but she had a phone number of someone who could help her find work given by a Filipino electrician and off she went. You have to admit it takes a great deal of courage and more than a modicum of despair to do that in a strange city where you have no friends and not much money.

One of the men in the group was working in Australia and said that once you leave you don't want to come back "*sa kahirapan ng buhay.*"

The other woman who joined them came from a conference in Brisbane with a group that gives out education scholarships to deaf and blind children. Her job is to look for financing. Jokingly the man said, "*Buti ka pa,* philanthropist."

You know, for all our protestations and motherhood statements about caring about the poor, one can't help wonder. After all how many decades have we been listening to promises and the situation, rather than improving, has gotten worse. On the other hand there are all those houses in the villages and condominiums and SUVs and Wife No. 1 with her facelift and Wife No. 2 in Escada, so I guess you could say that some did improve their situation.

Glad to be Pinoy

I AM not proud to be a Filipino. It isn't hard for many of us to say that, given our country's current dismal state. I mean, let's admit it: our country has reached an all-time record low point. With those darned Abu Sayyaf bandits still running around, spreading terror and sowing misery, who knows how bad things will really get? Excuse me, but I'm not saying that the Abu Sayyaf is the only reason for our nation's problematic condition. It's just that these wretched extremists are the most recent addition to our country's growing list of political, economic, environmental and social ailments.

YOUNGBLOOD

Joyce Corales

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Looking back on recent events that rocked the nation (and the peso-dollar rate), I cannot help but feel depressed. We had a former actor for a president who now stands accused of stealing hundreds of millions of pesos from us. He was a gambler, had very expensive taste in liquor, and fathered many children and kept many mistresses. Yes, our former-president was a philandering husband who made Bill Clinton look like a saint. No wonder such a big fuss was made about his moral ability to govern.

Moreover, his use of the English language was made fun of by newspapers, both international and local. He was mocked for having a low IQ and he became the butt of jokes. His administration was hounded by scandal after scandal, from his alleged involvement in stockmarket manipulation to his acquisiton of multimillion-peso mansions. I am ashamed to say that both my parents voted for the man, but that's okay and I forgive them for it.

Then there are those violent groups, the Abu Sayyaf, in particular. They commit acts of violene without any rational excuses. They plot and pillage, kill and kidnap. Their most recent feat was the kidnapping of tourists from a resort in Palawan. They have both foreign and local captives and so their latest criminal activity has gotten a lot of international attention.

And who can forget the tiem last year when they took 21 mostly foreign hostages from a Malaysian resort? These thugs have beheaded some of their poor captives to show that they mean business. These bandits are a constant source of headache and embarrassment to our government and our people. Their acts consitute nothing less than terrorism. These people are not men. They are barbarians.

Now, can you blame me if I cringe in embarrassment when I look at the papers or watch the news on TV? I dread the thought of knowing about another scandal, a new kidnap victim, or a new beheading. Worse, I worry that when I look at the papers, I will see nothing. Almost three months had passed and some of the hostages taken from Palawan remain hostages.

I am not the only one who looks cynically at the government's ability to run things. Investors are thinking just like me; the continuing fall of the peso is proof enough of that. The Philippines is earning a very shameful reputation as the kidnapping capital of the world. We are among the top 10 countries being used as a haven for money laundering. And before I forget, we are also notorious for drug trafficking.

A Filipino created the "Love Bug." One of our kind killed Gianni Versace. To many foreigners, we are best known as a race of entertainers, prostitutes and domestic helpers. We have a corrupt government.

The bureaucracy is plagued by red tape and *palakasan.* We have corrupt and/or incompetent government officials, aside from some who are mad (thank God, one of them lost in the senatorial elections). We had a violent "poor people's revolution." Jean Claude Van Damme allegedly called us monkeys, and Claire Danes said we were dreadful. Aargh!!!

Is this all the Filipino has to offer the world? I think not! I cannot agree that this is what being a Filipino is all about.

First of all, contrary to Danes, the Philippines is a lovely place, if you look beyond the monstrosity that is Metro Manila. This is a tropical paradise with white-sand beaches and lush coconut trees. We have great waterfalls to marvel at, caves to explore, mountains to trek and resorts to relax in.

Ours is a great race. We have a rich culture and history. We are a beautiful people. We have great heroes who fought for our freedom. We are hospitable. We are talented. And unless you've been living under a rock, you should know that many Filipinos or those with Filipino heritage have silently been making an impact abroad. For example, comedian Rob Schneider doesn't hide his Filipino roots (his mother is a Filipina). Leah Salonga of "Miss Saigon" fame is now a member of the cast of a famous long-running American soap opera. Donita Rose is now the new MTV Asia darling. And we are just waiting for Ruffa Gutierrez to make her big Hollywood debut.

We are also known for our unique ability to overthrow abusive leaders through a non-violent exercise of people-power. We have shown the world, not only once but twice, that unity, nationalism and courage is more effective than taking up arms against the government. This goes to show that as a people, we have the ability to rise above a sorry situation.

Now we have Ate Glo to help put things back in shape. There is a really big mess to clean up. But it isn't solely the new President's responsibility to fix things. We are all responsible for the whole thing. If only the spirit that was Edsa I and II animated everything we did, this country would be a better place to live in. I'm sure there would be less corruption, less mudslinging, less power grabbing, less *dagdag-bawas.* I'm positive the peso wouldn't look so pathetic compared to the mighty dollar.

What we need is unity and cooperation: Filipinos working and caring for fellow Filipinos. Rich and poor, civilian and politician, Catholic and Muslim working together for a better tomorrow. Civil or social status shouldn't matter. The bottom line is that we are all brothers.

As for our overseas workers, I salute them all. It takes courage to scrub bathroom floors and care for other people's children when you don't know for sure who is caring for yours. They bear loneliness and homesickness, risk being abused and exploited just to be able to earn and provide a better life for their loved ones. Yes, we are a resilientand caring people.

I said it before and I'll say again: I am not proud to be Filipino. But that is only because it is politically incorrect to say I am proud to be one, since it connotes that other nationalities are inferior. Instead, I say that I am glad to be a Filipino because we have a lot to be proud of. Despite bungling our efforts to morph from Third World nation to developed country, things could have have been worse. At least, we were not the first to elect an actor as president and later regret it.

While we have a lot to be ashamed of, we have a lot more to crow about. Now, if only someone would blow the Abu Sayyaf to kingdom come. Pronto.

Joyce Corales, 20, is a graduate of the Ateneo de Davao University. She feels so exasperated over the governmen't inability to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf that she is thinking of getting an Armalite and going after them herself.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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UP should consider alternative sources of funds

LAST year, the University of the Philippines slid to number 48 from rank 32 in the Asiaweek survey of Asia's best universities. This is unfortunate because it could have placed higher if it did not lack the resources to meet such criteria as research and financing.

This year's budget was cut by P1 billion and the students were outraged. To make up for the deduction, UP increased the tuition for graduate courses and laboratory fees this semester, and there are discussions about raising undergraduate tuition. Again, this resulted in protests from students who 'want a freeze in school fees.

The question of whether to increase or freeze tuition in state-run universities brings us back to the debate on whether socialism has become obsolete as an ideology. Education is indeed a right and not a privilege. An increase in tuition and other fees would mean fewer students would attend school.

But increasing state subsidy, which many believe is the answer to the problem, is not really the solution. The Philippine dilemma is that its citizens ask too much without wanting to give enough. The country's economy is experiencing a major setback and it may take years to recover. What it least needs are more free loaders.

The UP studentry is said to be composed mostly of graduates of private schools who fare better in the UP College Admission Test because of the deteriorating quality of education in public schools. The university should therefore examine the economic status of its students and create a bracket according to their financial needs. It should make sure that those who avail themselves of financial assistance are students who truly cannot afford the price of education, and this entails more than looking into a family's income tax return.

Student organizations should push for more effective financial assistance programs. But instead of rallying for a bigger budget at a time when the government deficits is growing, they should help raise money to make the university self-sustaining.

Commercialization has long been an issue in UP and it may be high time to look at the proposal again. UP has a lot of land and leasing some of it will bring in income which it urgently needs.

As the new Congress opens, UP student leaders will again lobby for a bigger budget for the university. I suggest that they stop pushing for the usual and consider alternatives. Let's have a reality check and become part of the solution. The Philippines is not a socialist state.—**MINERVA I. SALAO, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Better ads for Smart and Globe

SMART and Globe must be earning a lot from daily text messages numbering more than 20 million daily. No wonder they can afford to put out frequent ads in major dailies.

I'd like to request that these two giants keep their ads decent and avoid parading skimpily clad ladies to catch the eyes of readers. They're marketing their products, and not those ladies. They should ask their ad agencies to be more creative.

With their enormous advertising budgets, Smart and Globe can market their products and transmit good values and decency through their ads. Don't you think so?—**MARCEL ANTONIO MADRID, younggov@yahoo.com**

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Is Inday pregnant?

A FEW weeks ago, I was in an accident involving a friend's chauffeur-driven car ramming into the vehicle ahead of us. The collision was quite strong but no one was injured. After we got back on the road, my friend whispered to me that this was her driver's second accident in three months. I looked at the driver, who was in his 50s, and suggested to my friend that she have his eyes checked.

My friend was startled by the suggestion, making me realize how we take our domestic employees' health for granted. We hire helpers, drivers, houseboys without a medical check-up and get them to work for years without any kind of medical attention. It's only when something serious happens that we try to do something and the brutal reality is that many simply fire the sick help. There are just so many unemployed people waiting in line.

On ethical grounds alone, we owe it to our employees, and that includes domestic help, to help them care for their health. But ethics aside, there's the matter of self-interest: an unhealthy driver, or any other domestic helper, puts you and your family at risk.

It's not just a matter of drivers with poor eye sight. My father had a driver who had a transient stroke while driving. A transient stroke happens when the blood supply to the brain is cut off. It's relatively mild but the person can still lose control of his or her senses, even become paralyzed. A stroke while driving is one of the worst things that could happen. Fortunately, the driver was able to stop the car and my father was able to call for help.

Then there are the many infectious diseases. I will never forget a friend's story about a newly hired cook who kept coughing. He finally asked her if she had consulted a doctor about the cough. The cook assured him that she had and everything was all right because the doctor had told her that she had tested—positive.

We're not just talking about serious illnesses. Ever wondered about persistent diarrhea outbreaks at home? Check your food sources, especially if you're fond of take-out orders from restaurants, but I'd also advise you check if your helpers have been washing their hands whenever necessary (after the toilet, after handling garbage, before and after handling food). To be fair, I'd also advise you check your own family members about this very basic, yet often overlooked, life-saving health measure.

Admittedly, it's not always easy to get people to follow your health advice. Several months before my father's driver had his stroke I already noticed signs that he was having problems with high blood pressure. He'd complain about dizziness and his eyes were often bloodshot. We kept trying to get him to get a check-up, on our account, but he resisted until the stroke happened.

Understandably, many are afraid that if the doctor finds something wrong, it might mean losing a job. You just have to reassure the employee that you will not fire him or her on medical grounds and that you will be ready to shoulder the expenses, say, for corrective glasses, or the medicine for high blood pressure.

Which takes us to the point of health insurance. I've written about this before, in relation to the proposed magna carta for domestic helpers, which died in the last Congress. Even without that law, it's to your advantage to put household helpers on social security and PhilHealth. I go all the way and pay for membership in a health maintenance organization (HMO), which includes an annual check-up.

I know most readers will think I'm crazy: my own mother thinks so and I always have to remind her about the time we spent P24,000 to hospitalize the daughter of one of her helpers. The mother had health insurance but the girl, who was of legal age and had her own job, was not covered.

Domestic helpers' health needs span a wide range and that includes sex education. We're all aware of the many "accidents" that happen with household help. It's gotten to the point that whenever one of my mother's or friends' helpers begins to put on weight, I have to look hard and ask, "Is Inday pregnant?"

It's not easy handling sex education but it has to be done. My own stand here is that you have to include access to family planning services, even for single employees, but if your religious beliefs do not allow you to do that, then be very vigilant because sermons about chastity aren't very useful.

There's more to all this than talking about the birds and the bees. Make sure you tackle the gender issues, teaching the female helpers to resist and refuse and to rid themselves of all those romantic notions about love and marriage which they pick up from the television and radio soaps. Don't forget to talk with the male help as well about their responsibilities, although I have to say that this is often an exercise in futility. Sadly, macho values are at their worst with drivers and security guards.

The gains that come with health-wise helpers aren't limited to households. I'm going to use dengue fever prevention as an example. Your household may be mosquito-free, but if your neighbor doesn't cooperate with mosquito control, then your family's still at risk. The way to go is to get your helpers and houseboys educated about dengue control and to deploy them in the neighborhood to get to their peers. You'd be amazed at the community prevention effort that will emerge.

Self-interest aside, caring for your household help's health is a matter of ethics and social justice. As far as I'm concerned, we have no right to criticize the government about its neglect of the poor if we don't take up our share of the responsibility in our own homes and communities, starting with our domestic helpers.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

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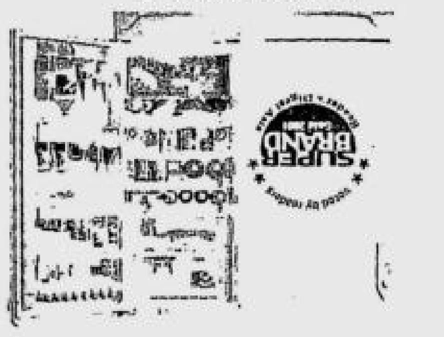

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Koizumi grabs poll win, vows to push reforms

TOKYO—Japan's superstar prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, said his ruling coalition's convincing victory in Sunday's Upper House election was a mandate to forge ahead with his painful reforms of the nation's troubled economy.

"We fared better than I expected," an unshaven, weary Koizumi, 59, said in a television interview after his long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its partners had locked up more than half the 121 seats at stake in the 247-seat Upper House.

Koizumi needed a comfortable victory to survive challenges to his leadership and his proposals to rein in Japan's massive public debt and clean up a banking system weighed down with bad loans.

The ruling coalition won a total 78 seats, according to public broadcaster NHK.

The LDP itself gained three seats to 64 in a chamber that is being reduced in size, a reversal of two previous Upper House polls. The 1998 election proved such a disaster that then-Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was forced to resign.

It was not clear before the poll whether Koizumi's sky-high approval ratings of over 70 percent would translate into votes. While he has been dubbed "Lion Heart" and became a pop idol, many of his reform plans strike at the heart of the long-ruling LDP's traditional support base of farmers and shopkeepers.

LDP Secretary General Taku Yamasaki, the party's number two official, said the convincing win meant a mandate for reform.

"The larger (the margin of victory), the easier it is to push ahead with Koizumi's reforms," he said from party headquarters where Lion Heart buttons were affixed to each winner's name.

With the better-than-expected victory, Koizumi is expected to survive an LDP presidential election in September, offering the potential to break the revolving door that has seen 11 Japanese leaders in 13 years.

The first test comes in mid-August when government ministries and agencies file their budget requests for the next fiscal year beginning in April.

KOIZUMI

Analysts say powerful politicians could hamper Koizumi's reform efforts by jockeying for their share of the budget.

Newspapers warned, however, that Koizumi and the LDP now have to make sincere efforts to carry out his reform proposals or face the wrath of the electorate.

"The LDP has been given the responsibility of actively supporting Koizumi's reforms," the daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said in an editorial. "If they were to obstruct this, it would be a huge betrayal of the voters."

Koizumi leapt to power in April in a surprise victory over old-guard rivals with the support of LDP members desperate for a new image to avoid defeat in the Upper House election. *Reuters*

Diana's kids properly reared, says brother

LONDON—The brother of the late Princess Diana admits that his fears over the upbringing of her two children, princes William and Harry, in rigid royal formality have proved groundless.

Earl Spencer's oration at Diana's 1997 funeral, in which he vowed that her "blood family" would do all they could to help raise the boys to "sing openly" as she would have wished, was a pointed rebuke to Buckingham Palace.

"I hope I have done everything I could for them," Charles Spencer told LBC radio station in London.

"My concerns at the time never actually came to the fore, because the two boys have their heads screwed on very well.

"I think it's all been fine and they are incredibly well-balanced."

Diana was seen as a breath of fresh air in the stuffy atmosphere of royal circles, and her death in a car crash in Paris sparked a backlash against the perception that the royal family was out of touch with modern society.

In the same interview, Spencer said he would have "nothing against" Prince Charles, who divorced Diana acrimoniously in 1996, marrying again.

"I have always thought it was none of my business at all what he did in his private life," he said. *AFP*

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Vajpayee agrees to new talks with Musharraf

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajapyee Sunday said he has accepted an invitation from Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf for another round of talks between the two leaders.

"Only the timing of the visit and the place we will meet is to be decided," Vajpayee told reporters in the eastern Indian state of Orissa following a tour of the flood-hit region.

Musharraf's formal invitation to Vajpayee was handed over by Pakistani High Commissioner (Ambassador) in New Delhi, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, on Friday.

The July 14-16 Vajpayee-Musharraf summit in the Taj Mahal town of Agra failed to issue a joint declaration, with a territorial dispute over the divided state of Kashmir the sticking point.

Pakistan said Kashmir must be a "core" issue in any joint declaration for easing bilateral tensions.

India, which accuses Pakistan of backing Islamic insurgents in Kashmir, insisted its neighbor must stop supporting separatist groups in the Himalayan state.

Pakistan denies the charges but says it offers diplomatic and moral support to what it describes as the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Vajpayee, speaking with reporters, also rejected newspaper reports that he was under pressure from partners of his BJP-led coalition government to drop his planned trip to Pakistan.

"There is absolutely no pressure on me and I don't work under pressure," he added.

The announcement came a day after Vajpayee was quoted as saying that he knew the summit was doomed from day one.

"I knew on the first day itself that the summit will not be successful," Vajpayee said in comments published Sunday in Indian newspapers.

The Times also quoted Vajpayee as saying that General Musharraf had spoken "like an army man" during his meetings with him.

Briefing his Hindu Nationalist BJP party colleagues on Saturday, Vajpayee said: "He (Musharraf) was quite clueless about our history, politics and rules of international diplomacy."

"You did not see Musharraf's face as he was leaving. I did. He didn't want to leave because he was returning empty-handed . . . If I had asked him to stay he would have. But I didn't. I did not even give him a photo opportunity." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Macedonia peace talks stall

TETOVO, Macedonia—Macedonia's fragile ceasefire between ethnic Albanian rebels and government forces started to crumble Sunday as peace talks ran into deadlock on the issue of making Albanian an official language. A convoy transporting Macedonian Interior Minister Ljube Boskovski came under fire, four Macedonian soldiers were shot and injured and an Army barracks was attacked in the flashpoint town of Tetovo in separate incidents. Meanwhile, police in neighboring Albania said they had seized a truck loaded with weapons—including four ground-to-ground missiles—apparently destined for Macedonia's ethnic Albanian rebel National Liberation Army. And a Macedonian woman and her son were killed when a mine exploded under their vehicle on the road leading from Tetovo to Kosovo which the rebels and the Army have fought over in recent days. The violence overshadowed talks between Macedonia's ruling Slav and ethnic Albanian parties in the southern town of Ohrid that were showing little sign of progress despite intensive mediation by EU and US envoys Francois Leotard and James Pardew. *AFP*

Israeli tank fire kills 6 Fatah activists

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli tank fire killed six Palestinians on Israel's most-wanted list in an attack in the West Bank yesterday, Palestinian officials said. The Israeli Army said it would not comment on the incident, described by an official from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, to which the six belonged, as an assassination. In recent weeks the Army has claimed responsibility for incidents in which it tracked and killed Palestinian activists. The Israeli government describes such killings as a policy to intercept militants involved in attacks against Israelis. The bloodshed came hours after a day of violence at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site ended without loss of life, with Israel and the Palestinians scoring their political points and retiring from the arena. *Reuters*

Sri Lanka cuts off talks with rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—The Sri Lankan government yesterday ended moves toward peace talks with Tamil Tiger rebels, saying it will not lift a ban on the separatist group after last week's devastating attack near Colombo. "It is totally out of question," Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar was quoted as saying by the state-run Daily News on the issue of lifting a ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Lifting of the ban, imposed after the rebels attacked this Buddhist majority island country's main shrine in 1998, is the main precondition of the rebels to enter peace talks. The insurgents are fighting to create a homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. The statement comes after last week's rebel attack on the country's only international airport and an adjoining major air force base. *AP*

Canada expands use of medical marijuana

TORONTO—Canadians suffering from terminal illnesses and chronic conditions such as arthritis can legally grow and smoke marijuana, or designate someone else to grow it for them, under regulations that take effect yesterday. The new rules are part of the first system in the world that includes a government-approved and paid-for supply of marijuana, now being grown in a former mine in northern Manitoba. The rules will expand the number of people beyond the 292 in the country currently exempted from federal drug laws that make it a criminal offense to grow and use marijuana. Eight US states have taken some kind of step toward permitting the medicinal use of marijuana. The US Supreme Court, however, ruled earlier this year that there is no exception in federal law for people to use marijuana, so even people with state medical-exemptions could face arrest if they do. *AP*

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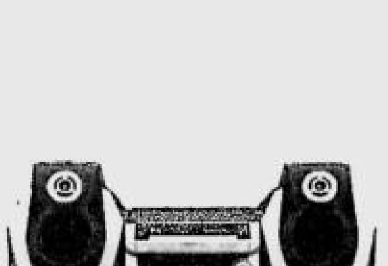
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Viesques votes no to US Navy bombing runs on island

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico—Residents of Vieques voted on Sunday to ask the US Navy to end its bombing exercises on their Puerto Rican island and leave immediately.

In a non-binding referendum on an issue that has gripped Puerto Rican politics, islanders voted by about 68 percent to ask the Navy to clean up and return the land it has controlled for 60 years, according to preliminary figures from the State Elections Commission.

About 30 percent of some 5,900 registered voters opted for the Navy to stay.

Nearly two percent backed a third option which would allow the Navy to train with inert ordnance until May 1, 2003—a compromise put forward by President George W. Bush as the debate over the bombing exercises roiled the United States' relations with the Spanish-speaking Caribbean territory.

Puerto Rica Governor Sila Calderon, speaking to reporters in San Juan, said: "The Vieques people made their decision today and they spoke clearly. This was the united voice of a people." *Reuters*

POWELL

China jet fighters keeping distance –Powell

CANBERRA—Chinese fighter aces have dropped close-quarters harassment of US surveillance flights following the diplomatic crisis which erupted over a downed US spyplane, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday.

"So far, since we resumed reconnaissance flights we haven't seen anything like the kinds of things we have been seeing before," Powell told reporters travelling with him on a five-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

Washington accused Chinese pilots of endangering its flights over international waters after a US E-P3 surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter collided over the South China Sea in April.

China held the crew of the US plane for 11 days after it made an emergency landing on Hainan Island in an incident which severely strained already testy Sino-US relations. The Chinese pilot was killed in the collision.

Powell expressed confidence after meeting all the Chinese top leaders including President Jiang Zemin during a visit to Beijing Saturday that the spyplane drama was finally over.

The United States had held discussions with China, and suggested "you know, let's use proper rules when we are up there," he said.

"Don't put these 20-year-olds in a position where something can happen," Powell said, referring to what critics say were gung-ho and youthful Chinese pilots, blamed by the United States for causing the collision. *AFP*

N. Zealand to okay GM crops

WELLINGTON—The world's first royal commission on genetic modification of crops (GM) will give the go ahead to the controversial science in New Zealand, a report said yesterday.

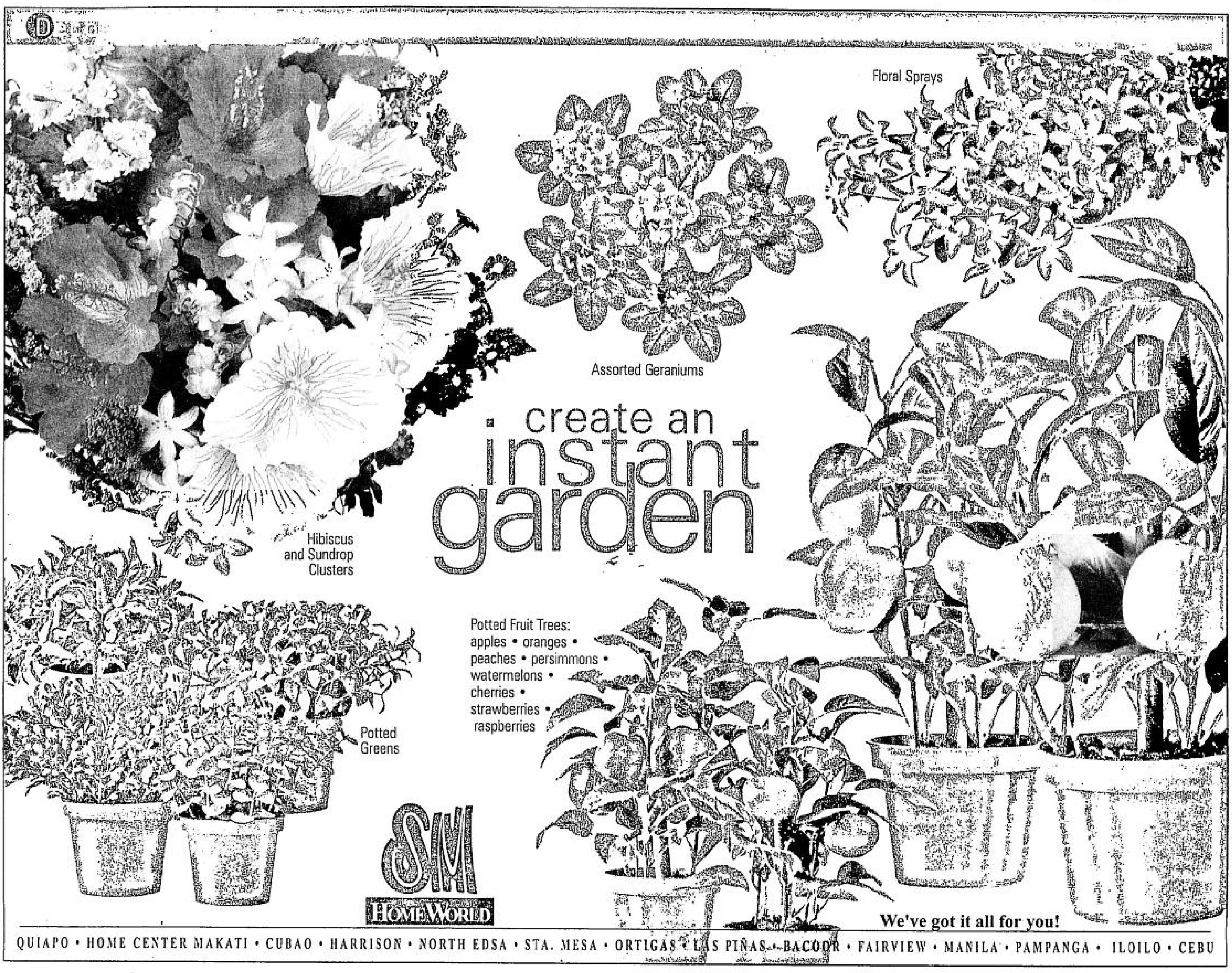
The commission's 1,500-page report will be released later Monday.

Quoting an unnamed official from the ministry for the environment, the Christchurch Press newspaper said the commission will give the go ahead for GM field trials, a major blow to opponents of genetic engineering.

The Green Party, which had lobbied for the establishment of the commission, had asked it to recommend that the technology be confined to the laboratory.

Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsi-mons said the outcome would be disappointing but did not wish to comment until she had seen the full report.

"I think the key things that we're looking for is what are they going to say about the release of GE (genetically engineered) organisms because at the moment New Zealand is GE free in its environment and its agriculture." *AFP*



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Airlines face suit over 'economy class syndrome'

LONDON—Major airlines will be served with a multi-million pound lawsuit this week from British victims of "economy class syndrome," Britain's Observer newspaper reported on Sunday.

Carriers could face compensation costs in excess of $14.3 million for failing to warn British passengers about the risks of the blood clot condition known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), the paper said.

It did not list the airlines being targeted but said they were understood to include British Airways.

The potentially fatal condition, which can affect travelers on long-haul flights, is caused by blood clots forming in the legs after long periods of immobility.

One in 10 long-haul passengers is at risk of DVT, according to the British medical journal "The Lancet."

The action has been launched by the legal firm Collins Solicitors, of Watford in Hertfordshire near London, on behalf of 30 British passengers, 10 of whom died, the paper said.

If successful, it could open the floodgates for a raft of litigation against airlines, many of which have so far refused to accept responsibility for DVT.

Gerda Faith Goldinge, assistant partner at Collins, told the Observer: "We want the airlines to admit there is an issue and compensate accordingly."

Last week an Australian law firm launched similar suits against three international airlines, KLM of the Netherlands, Australia's Qantas Airways and British Airways, as well as the Australian air safety body CASA.

A spokesperson for British Airways said on Sunday that the airline would not comment on the British suit until it had seen the legal papers, expected to arrive yesterday.

Collins is reported to have examined the cases investigated by lobby group VARDA—Victims of Air Related DVT Association—and selected those most likely to win payouts, which could hit $713,600 per victim.

If the first cases are successful Collins will proceed with a further 200 cases and more to follow, the paper said.

VARDA is headed by Ruth Christoffersen, whose daughter Emma, 28, died last year after arriving at London's Heathrow Airport following a flight from Australia.

Aviation Health Institute spokesperson Farrol Khan said it was time airlines were held accountable. *Reuters*

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BANDIT SUSPECT'S TALE

Abu Sayyaf 'a gov't monster'

By ALEXANDER YOUNG
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected leader of the Abu Sayyaf continued his defiant stance despite his arrest, pointing an accusing finger at the government for the emergence of the bandit group in Mindanao.

Hector Janjalani told reporters in his jail here that if there was anybody to blame for the existence of the Abu Sayyaf, it was the government itself.

Janjalani and 44 other suspects are facing trial at the sala of Judge Jesus Carbon of the Regional Trial Court Branch 16 here. But Carbon reset the arraignment to Aug. 22 as most of the accused were presented to the court unaccompanied by counsels.

Janjalani accused the government of planting evidence against him and charging him with a number of crimes which he is innocent of. He said the government created the Abu Sayyaf by oppressing the Muslim youth who later on organized the group.

"If they say we are evil, why don't you ask them what they did to our youngest, Khadaffy (Janjalani, reported chief of the Abu Sayyaf)?" Janjalani said.

"My brother only wanted to study but he was arrested."

Hector said it was the government's repressive character that forced his brother to go underground.

Hector insisted, though, that he was never involved in the Abu Sayyaf's criminal activities, saying he was jailed simply because he had the surname Janjalani.

Hector denied ever being a leader, or even a member of the bandit group, saying he used to live an ordinary life in Basilan as a baker.

He has been accused of being among those who led the kidnapping of several students, teachers, and a Catholic priest in Basilan last year.

But he denied ever participating in the kidnapping, saying he was in Zamboanga City to accompany his pregnant wife when the kidnappings happened.

"At that time, my wife gave birth to our child here in Zamboanga because I was on the run to avoid trouble. But, I'm still being pursued," Janjalani said.

He said he lives a simple life in Basilan, managing a bakery to support his wife and two sons. But the government, he said, made ways to make his life miserable.

"The government had my bakery closed because it doesn't want Muslims to live a peaceful life," Janjalani said Friday after the court allowed him 15 minutes to be interviewed by reporters here.

Janjalani presented four petitions to the court, asking the court that he be informed of the cases filed against him; to face his accusers; to choose his own counsel; and to stay in Zamboanga City so he could receive visitors and be near to his family and relatives.

Among the cases Janjalani is facing are kidnapping for ransom, illegal possession of firearms and drug dealing and possession.

Janjalani's lawyers and the counsels of the other suspects asked for the preliminary investigation of the cases. Judge Carbon gave the prosecution panel until Aug. 22 to conduct the preliminary investigation, on which date the court will arraign the suspects.

Janjalani's counsel lawyer Fred Jimenez said his client faces another case in Manila for drug possession and trafficking. But because Janjalani's kidnapping case was filed in the local RTC, he has to face the charges in Zamboanga.

"Janjalani himself told us that the case of drug (trafficking) is pending against him in Manila. But he has been in detention for six months (and) nothing has happened to this drug case," Jimenez said.

He said the court rescheduled the arraignment for August and instead resolved other pending motions of the accused. He said he and other lawyers moved for the immediate release of some of the accused from custody for preliminary investigation.

In the case of Janjalani, Jimenez said, he is facing 11 counts of kidnapping in Zamboanga, aside from facing other cases in Manila.

"The cases in Manila are for possession of shabu, while in Zamboanga it is for kidnapping. I believe (the) cases in Zamboanga are more serious than the cases in Manila. So I think the court in Zamboanga has a stronger authority to hold Janjalani in Zamboanga City to face 11 counts of kidnapping," Jimenez said.

Janjalani was ordered by the court to be committed to the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center.

But a Supreme Court decision allowed the suspects' transfer to Cebu City, a ruling that created an uproar in Cebu. *Alexander Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

N. Luzon congressmen to revive power bloc

CANDON CITY, Ilocos Sur—The Northern Luzon bloc in the House of Representatives, which was once envied and respected because of its solid and united stand on major issues, wants to relive its old glory by becoming a major political bloc in the 12th Congress.

"We would be speaking (with) one voice as far as all issues affecting Northern Luzon are concerned," Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, the newly elected president of the Northern Luzon bloc, told the INQUIRER. "All (of the bloc's members) have pledged to cross party lines for the benefit of our people."

The group consists of 29 representatives from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera regions.

Singson said after electing its officers last Tuesday, the group immediately set its goals.

He said the bloc would pursue programs that would seek to accelerate the development of Northern Luzon, particularly the NorthQuad development program.

This program seeks to establish and expedite trade and commerce with the Philippines' neighboring countries in the North like Taiwan and China, including Hong Kong.

It would promote agro-industrial concerns like the development of the Poro Point in San Fernando City as an industrial and tourist hub. The other areas targeted for development include Port Irene in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, and the Laoag International Airport in Ilocos Norte. The group would also focus on development programs for Isabela and the Cordillera.

Singson said Northern Luzon has been lagging behind in its development programs.

"One reason is that its leaders have become fragmented," he said.

The Northern Luzon bloc of congressmen was first formed in 1987 during the incumbency of then President Corazon Aquino. The group is considered one of the most influential and powerful blocs in the House.

Speaker Jose de Venecia of Pangasinan and House Minority Floor Leader Carlos Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya belong to the bloc.

Singson said Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, the Northern Luzon bloc's vice president, volunteered to form a special group to draft its legislative agenda.

The group is thinking of ways to help tobacco farmers in the Ilocos provinces who are facing serious economic difficulties due to the weakening tobacco industry, he said. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Execs upbeat on Boracay despite Koreans' holdup

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Tourism officials in Western Visayas continued to put on a brave face yesterday following the holdup of 10 South Korean tourists on Boracay Island.

Edwin Trompeta, regional tourism director, gave assurances that Boracay is "relatively well-guarded."

Trompeta gave this assurance amid unease over security on the island after three armed men robbed 10 South Korean tourists of their cash and valuables on July 26.

Trompeta said the regional Philippine National Police office here also ordered its personnel to seal off Boracay Island for possible bandit attacks.

Police were also ordered to keep a tight watch for criminal groups.

The PNP has a total of 30 police personnel on the island, 10 of who were part of the reinforcement that was sent there after the kidnapping of foreign and local tourists in a Palawan resort.

The Philippine Army based in Panay has also sent 30 soldiers to Boracay to reinforce the island's police force.

More cops

At the Caticlan Port, the jump-off point from mainland Panay to Boracay, personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Command of the PNP were also posted to check on passengers.

Trompeta said the holdup of the South Korean tourists happened on a short but unlighted stretch of road on the southern tip of the island.

The holdup men, armed with short firearms, blocked the van carrying the tourists who were on their way to the San Lorenzo Villas in Sitio Cagban, Barangay Manoc-manoc.

The armed men stopped the vehicle with a long bamboo pole in an isolated stretch of road between the main resort area and the resort.

Taken from the victims were $1,305, two Korean passports, two international plane tickets, a gold wristwatch worth $1,000, an 18K gold necklace worth $200, P500 bills, one pair of eyeglasses and a mobile phone.

The tourists were identified as Kon Tae Lee, Sun Jen Cha, Ji Seon Lee, Yeon Heung Kom, Jiwon Lee, Kyum Lee, Ji Haeng Lee, Sook Jung Jung, Kyung Ae Soo and Hse Jung Lee.

Goodbye Philippines

The Koreans left Boracay for Manila via Asian Spirit from the Caticlan Airport a day after the robbery.

South Koreans topped the list of foreign tourist on Boracay, comprising the bulk of some 18,000 Asians who visited the island last year, DOT records said.

South Koreans started coming to Boracay in 1995 but the arrivals slowed down in 1997, at the height of the Asian financial crisis. They made a slow comeback in 1998 and by 1999 they became the top visitors on the island again.

Asian tourists (38,000) greatly outnumbered visitors from Europe (18,000) and North America (9,000) combined, the DOT said.

Trompeta said his office recorded an increase in tourist arrivals in Boracay after the Sipadan kidnapping in Malaysia and the abduction of tourists in Dos Palmas.

He said tourists must have "detoured" from other resorts to Boracay because they were assured of their safety and security.

Tourist arrivals on Boracay contributed to P1.7 billion to the economy last year. Boracay is home to some 350 beach resorts.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 27°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/31/01

ROUNDUP

Illegal recruiters caught

DAVAO CITY—Members of the Special Anti-Crime Response Team of the Davao City Police Office arrested two suspected illegal recruiters and rescued 15 job applicants, including two minors, Saturday. The suspects were identified as Gaudencio Tapic, 57, and Marlyn Alberca, 36. They allegedly failed to present documents to recruit applicants for jobs abroad. The suspects were allegedly recruiting women as dancers for Japan.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Yu kidnappers hunted

DAVAO CITY—Police here continued to track down two suspects tagged in the kidnapping of 11-year-old Ryan James Yu in Cebu City last week. The hunt went on after the five arrested suspects reportedly admitted that they have two other companions who financed the operation. On Wednesday afternoon, the five suspects were separately arrested at the parking area of the Davao International Airport following the rescue of the victim in Lahug, Cebu City.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5 men arrested

BALAGTAS, Bulacan—Police arrested five men in Barangay San Juan here for possession of four kilograms of marijuana bricks. Arrested were Rodrigo Agner, Arnold Paulino, brothers Ismael and Ryan Austria and Marionito Narciso. Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said the marijuana bricks came from Tinoc, Ifugao and were delivered by Agner, a native of Baguio City, to dealers in Bulacan and Metro Manila.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

22 fishers nabbed

ORION, Bataan—Police and Bantay-Dagat members arrested 22 fishermen for illegal fishing in the waters off this town. The fishermen, arrested in continuous operations ordered by the municipal government last week, were found using dynamites and extra-fine mesh net in fishing. The fishermen were detained at the Orion police station but were later released after posting bail.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rights abuses probed

DIGOS CITY—The military here has started its full-blown investigation of allegations that some soldiers committed human rights abuses in Jose Abad Santos town last month. Capt. Lyndon Paniza, executive officer of the 25th Infantry Battalion, said they received a complaint from Hadji Norma Factura on abuses committed by their soldiers during the operation against the Pearl Farm raiders in Barangay Camalian. The Pearl Farm raiders, later confirmed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf, initially sailed to Malita town, and later hid in Jose Abad Santos. Factura said at least six residents were allegedly tortured on suspicion that they were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and have connived with the Abu Sayyaf. But Col. Pedrito Magsino, chief of the 601st Infantry Brigade, denied any wrongdoing by the soldiers.
Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

School pact to be signed

DIGOS CITY—The city government and the Lions Club International of Denmark and Italy are set to enter into a funding agreement for the construction of a two-story "ultra-modern school building" here. Mayor Arsenio Latasa said the Lions Club was willing to donate some P30 million for the construction of the building with modern facilities. The city government has identified a 5,000-square meter lot where the building will be constructed.
Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Stop media extortion

DAVAO CITY—Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, city police chief, has called on the officers of the Philippine National Police-Armed Forces of the Philippines Press Corps in Southern Mindanao to stop "extortion" by some journalists. Garcia was the guest of the press corps' induction of officers on Saturday. Some police officials have complained that some journalists have been asking money for unknown purposes.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Faked drugs

DIGOS CITY—The anti-ulcer drug Cytotec is among the most faked drugs in the market, said Dr. Dolores Castillo of the Department of Health in Southern Mindanao. Other drugs being faked are the pain reliever Ponstan (Mefenamic acid), the anesthetic Lidocaine, Diamicron tablets for diabetic persons and a steroid marketed under the brand Lanocin. Castillo said the DOH has tightened its monitoring following reports that these drugs are being mixed with genuine ones and are sold in public. Castillo said counterfeit drugs are mostly made up of cornstarch and will not in any way cure illnesses. She said fake drugs are usually marketed using inferior packaging.
Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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LRD-113A	EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City (fronting Clover Leaf Market and beside Nissan Showroom)	36,015m² commercial/industrial lots (TCT Nos. N-171471, N-171472, N-171473, N-171475, N-171476) with buildings and improvements.	P 442,836,000.00
LRD-113B	Galas, Quezon City (bounded by Luskot, Serrano Laktaw and Pedro Paterno Streets)	2,400m² residential/industrial lots (TCT Nos. N-171474 and N-171477) with buildings and improvements.	P 25,000,000.00
VAB-91	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	404.4m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143002).	P 8,108,000.00
VAB-92	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	398.3m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143001).	P 7,966,000.00
VAB-93	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	327.2m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143000).	P 6,544,000.00
VCP-39	1304 Int. M. Naval Street, Navotas	338m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C-300082) with buildings and improvements.	P 585,000.00
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BULACAN			
VAB-94	Tadeo Street, Poblacion, Bustos	2,999m² residential/commercial lot (TCT 118053) with buildings and improvements.	P 13,167,000.00
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(PDI – July 31, 2001)

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

6 injured as MILF men shell town center

COTABATO CITY—Six persons were hurt when suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels fired mortars at the town center of Datu Piang, Maguindanao on Sunday night, the military here said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the attack sent fear back to the hearts of civilians, many of whom have already returned home following the resumption of peace talks between the government and the MILF.

"It could be the work of the Moro rebels who figured in a firefight with soldiers last week," Ando said of the shelling. "Other than the military, only the MILF is capable of launching mortar attacks," he said.

He identified a certain Commander Duma of the MILF's 1st Division as the leader of the rebels who attacked the town.

Of the eight mortar shells that were sent the way of the town, two went off beside a private warehouse in downtown Datu Piang, formerly known as Dulawan, while two others landed beside the town's ice plant.

The victims, two of them children, suffered minor injuries. Some of those injured were declared out of danger and released from the hospital.

"This is very alarming," Ando said. "Mortars are instruments of destruction (that do not distinguish between combatant and non-combatant)."

"I am afraid and worried about the safety of the civilians," he added.

Last week, two rebels were killed and two soldiers were hurt in a clash outside the town center.

Ando said the suspects, belonging to a renegade MILF group, are suspected to be also involved in cattle rustling in Datu Piang's far-flung villages.

But the Army is checking reports that Commander Duma and his men were political enemies of town officials and the attack could be their way of harassing the town officials.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Duma is a member of the MILF but expressed doubts whether he was responsible for the shelling of Datu Piang town.

"The military is after Duma because he and his men repulsed an Army attack in Datu Piang when both sides should be observing a cessation of hostilities," Kabalu said.

Following Sunday night's shelling, hundreds of women, with their children and work animals in tow, fled the town center.

Ando said Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamko, 6th ID chief, has ordered an investigation and directed his field commanders to file formal complaints against the guerrillas before the government peace panel. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cheaper AIDS drugs sought

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials of a non-government organization said the government must initiate programs to lower the cost of medicines for HIV patients to prevent the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases in the country.

Tino Ramirez, vice president of the Positive Action Foundation (PAF), said the lack of job opportunities and high costs of anti-viral medicines have put these patients' health at risk.

The PAF is a non-government organization involved in conceptualizing programs on the care and support of persons afflicted with HIV.

Ramirez said an HIV patient needs anti-viral medicines to suppress and prevent the complication of the disease by maintaining the number of healthy cells in the body.

But these medicines cost from P30,000 to P36,000, making them unaffordable to HIV patients.

"There are other expensive medicines depending on the patients' status. Given their plight, how can we expect them to improve their conditions?" Ramirez asked. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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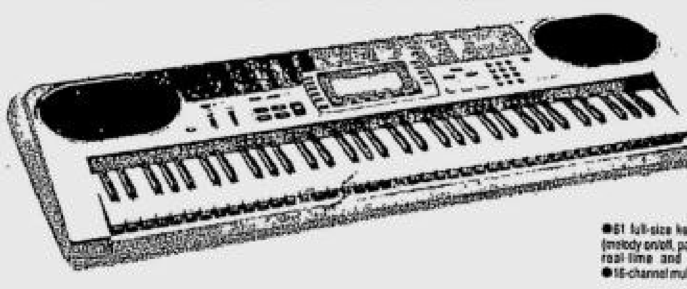

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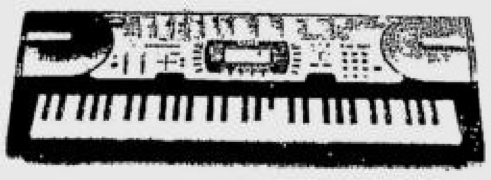

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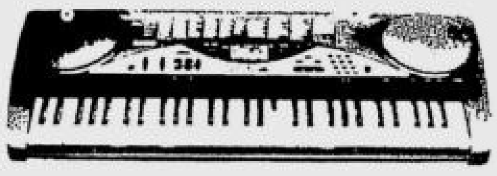

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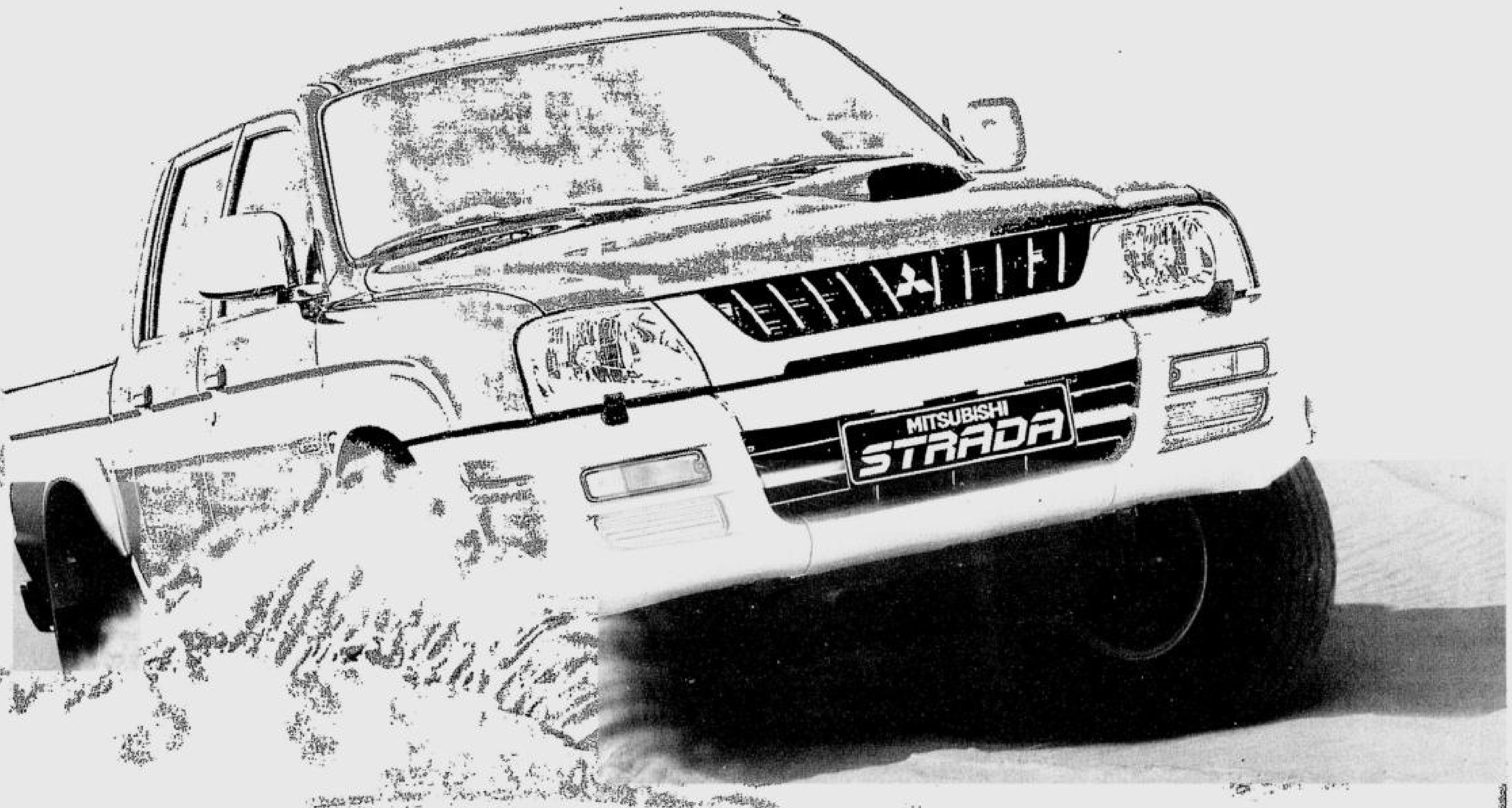

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Probe covers GMA, says Ombudsman

(From page A1)

ternal investigation to the Ombudsman last night, but had yet to turn them over at press time.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto assigned special prosecutors Roque Dator, Ferdinand San Joaquin and Luisito Suarez to the fact-finding panel, to look into the allegations against Ms Macapagal's husband.

Desierto said the findings of the fact-finding panel would be known "in less than a week."

Only if the panel sees strong evidence indicating the involvement of public officials, will the Ombudsman "go full blast" with a formal inquiry, Desierto said.

If the panel finds any evidence linking Ms Macapagal to the lobby effort aimed at getting her to reconsider her own veto (which she never did), the Ombudsman will stop the investigation and turn it over to Congress for legislative action, he said.

Perez, a former legislator, repeated that once the President vetoes a bill, only Congress, by a two-thirds vote, can override the veto.

Desierto noted that Arroyo and Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, the President's former correspondence secretary, had both accused each other of accepting bribe money.

He said both versions "must be clarified through evidence."

Malacañang issued a press release to say that the First Gentleman "has not interfered in appointments or deals with government." Under Administrative Order No. 1, issued by the President two days after she assumed office, public officers and employees are barred from entering into official transactions with relatives of the President.

Arroyo is due back from a vacation in California by Aug. 2, the First Couple's wedding anniversary.

Opposition congressmen included an INQUIRER clipping of the transcript of Rodrigo's statement read to dzMM's Cito Beltran on July 20 when they filed their resolution seeking an inquiry.

In her statement, Rodrigo accused Arroyo and three of his friends of accepting money as part of a deal to get the veto recalled. She specified no amount, except to say that it was a lot of money.

She made the accusations in response to an earlier radio interview given by Arroyo, in which he said he heard a resigned Palace secretary had received money for the same deal. Arroyo made the remarks to deny a round of text messages claiming that he had received a bribe from P40-50 million.

In a press release, Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday challenged Rodrigo, the daughter of the late Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo and longtime friend of Ms Macapagal, "to plug the loopholes in her accusations" against Arroyo.

The administration senator also asked critics of the First Family to explain where they got the alleged bribe figure of P50 million.

"Rodrigo never narrated how she knew of the alleged bribery, where, when and how it was allegedly executed and by whom. All that there is to it is her accusation," Recto said.

The senator also said Rodrigo should explain why she only named Arroyo while saying that three others were involved in the alleged bribery.

"Why did she only single out the First Gentleman? Was she trying to shield somebody else?" Recto said.

A House unhampered

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla sought the inclusion of Rodrigo's transcript as an annex in House Resolution No. 55, which seeks a joint investigation by the committees on legislative franchise and on transportation and communications.

Jaraula said the Ombudsman's investigation would "not, in any way, hamper or inhibit the House from proceeding with the formal inquiry in aid of legislation."

He said that it was in "the best interests of the First Family that the legislative inquiry be undertaken."

Lakas Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur said the House should look into the procedures used when the controversial franchises were passed in the 11th Congress.

Pichay said that the telecommunications industry itself was not consulted when congressional hearings were conducted on the franchise application of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI), one of the two companies which sought the President's reconsideration of their vetoed franchises.

PCCI and APC Wireless are both owned by Pacifico Marcelo III, an Estrada appointee to the sequestered Philcomsat board and former consultant to a company owned by Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves. *(See boxed story on this page.)*

Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has said that he suspects Marcelo is fronting for Dichaves.

Saguisag: Ani flunks

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, a lawyer for ex-President Joseph Estrada, hit Desierto for apparently flip-flopping on his earlier decision not to investigate Arroyo.

Saguisag accused the Ombudsman of jumping at the President's orders because he has "cast a moist eye on a Supreme Court seat" after his retirement next year.

He said that Desierto had "again flunked an obvious challenge to his integrity and independence."

Jaraula agreed in a separate interview.

"'It is just very unfortunate that the Ombudsman was rather very hasty in refusing earlier to assume jurisdiction over the controversy just because the First Gentleman is a private citizen," Jaraula said.

He also ribbed Desierto for suddenly finding "enthusiasm and exuberance after the presidential referral and even declaring that he will finish the investigation in one week's time."

"This only promotes the suspicion that (Desierto) is inclined to whitewash the probe," Jaraula charged.

The naming of House committee chairmen was expected yesterday afternoon with Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri and Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras likely to head the franchise and the communications committees, respectively.

"We welcome the probe though the facts are not that clear this early," Zubiri said.

"That should really be investigated in order to clear the air," said Paras.

Brother King

Bing Rodrigo had earlier said computerized records in Malacañang would show that the bills never passed through her hands. She also said that the only participation she had in the alleged deal was escorting a former DOTC consultant, who wanted to follow up on the reconsideration request, to Presidential Liaison for Legislative Affairs Gabriel Claudio's office.

Columnists in various papers have since said that the consultant, Malou Nuñez, is represented by lawyer Francisco "King" Rodrigo Jr., Bing's brother.

Palace sources said that King Rodrigo was also a lawyer for PCCI, but the Saludo, Agpalo, Fernandez and Aquino Law Office, the law firm representing the company, denied this when the INQUIRER sought confirmation.

"Our law firm is the only duly hired counsel of PCCI and APC. King Rodrigo, or any other lawyer who is not part of our firm, is not representing the companies," PCCI legal counsel Ronette Franco said in a phone interview.

A check with the Rodrigo, Berenguer and Guno office revealed that Bing's brother is out of the country.

Bing Rodrigo's case is being handled by Eduardo Berenguer of that firm, the Palace source told the INQUIRER. Berenguer did not return a reporter's call seeking an interview.

'No monopoly'

Former NTC head and now Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago, said there had been no indication during congressional hearings that a monopoly would be created if PCCI were granted the franchise to set up and operate a clearinghouse for telecom firms.

"It's far from being a monopoly. NTC even issued a no-objection letter to the House committee on franchise," he said. PCCI sources and Sen. Vicente Sotto, who heads the Senate committee that approved the franchise bill, had expressed the same opinion—that the proposed clearinghouse would have merely provided an alternative way for telecom firms to interconnect.

Santiago noted that the franchise, which the President vetoed on the recommendation of government communications agencies, "was not an exclusive grant."

"It only becomes a monopoly if the NTC grants the franchisee provisional authority to exclusively operate a utility," Santiago said. ***With reports from Donna Cueto, Martin Marfil, Abigail Ho and Andrea Trinidad***

Who owns PCCI and APC Wireless?

BY RAY LEYESA
PDI Research

WHO owns Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.?

The transportation secretary says the answer is Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves, but Securities and Exchange Commission records show that businessman Pacifico U. Marcelo III is the major stockholder of both companies.

Marcelo was appointed to the board of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), a sequestered company, by former President Estrada in September 2000 along with other Jaime Dichaves boys who ousted Ronaldo Salonga as Philcomsat head.

He still sits on the board of Philcomsat as the Macapagal administration has yet to name its new appointments to the board.

Marcelo owns 80 percent of the initial paid-up capital stock of PCCI, totaling P62,500 upon the company's incorporation in June 2000.

He also owns 80 percent of the initial paid-up capital stock, also totaling P62,500, of APC Wireless. Both PCCI and APC were incorporated with a total authorized capital stock of P1 million.

On Dec. 4, 2000, APC sought the approval of the SEC to increase its authorized capital stock to P20 million. They did so just a week before the House Committee on Legislative Franchise recommended the approval of House Bill 12672, granting the APC a franchise "to establish, install, maintain, lease and operate wire and/or wireless telecommunication systems and services, lines, circuits and stations within and without the Philippines."

The SEC approved the increase in its authorized capital stock to P20 million in February 2001.

The rumored bribe of P50 million given in a bid to overturn the veto of the franchise granted to APC is two and a half times as much as the total authorized stock of APC.

PCCI is authorized to engage in the provision of clearinghouse services for communications and gaming entities.

APC Wireless is involved in gathering, processing and distribution of information or other data as well as providing telecommunications services.

The other incorporators of both companies are Voltaire Alcantara and Leo San Miguel.

Marcelo was president of International Telecom Consultancy & Services Inc., which holds office in Renaissance 2000 on Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Alcantara, who serves as director and treasurer of APC, was his vice president in International Telecom.

The other incorporators of PCCI are Dante Madriaga and Guillermo Yanza Jr. The Other incorporators of APC are Leah Ledesma and Juliet Marcelino.

Marcelo finished marketing management in Ateneo de Naga in 1970. He was the managing director of Flour Daniel Telecom from November 1997 to May 1998. He was also a sales director for Lucent Technologies Phil. Inc.

From December 1994 to June 1996, he was vice president for business development in the Asia-Pacific Region of Phoenix Wireless Group Inc. of Florida.

Telecom industry backs Palace veto

(From page A1)

bill sometime soon.

"But I will not disclose who's pushing for it," he said.

The bill was vetoed on April 18 upon the recommendation of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The President also vetoed a similar bill granting APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. a congressional franchise.

Had the PCCI bill been approved, it would have given PCCI the authority to "connect or demand connection of its telecommunications systems to any other telecommunications systems installed, maintained and operated by any other duly authorized person or entity in the Philippines."

Salalima said this provision was highly irregular because it would have given PCCI an authority granted only to the NTC.

"Under previous bills, carriers can discuss interconnection among themselves, but only the NTC has the authority to order connection or interconnection," he said.

A copy of PCCI's business plan revealed that PCCI would be the center of interconnection for landline and cellular phones, Internet service providers, paging and trunk radio service, payphone and virtual private networks and international gateway facilities.

"PCCI would have no contributions to the industry, but they would be there to collect toll from the existing operators," said Rogelio Quevedo, head of Smart Communications Inc.'s legal, external and carrier relations.

Quevedo said there was no need for a clearinghouse right now because the players themselves had already reached interconnection agreements.

"We already have direct interconnection so there is no need to create a third party to meddle with this," Salalima said.

Duplication

Other carriers also believe that the creation of a clearinghouse will only result in the duplication of existing facilities.

"All of us have already invested money to be interconnected to each other, So, we don't see the need for PCCI," said Ramon Santiago, first vice president of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

But PCCI legal counsel Ronette Franco told the INQUIRER that carriers need not get out of their existing interconnection agreements had PCCI obtained its congressional franchise and put up its clearinghouse.

"We are not forcing them to interconnect through us. We're actually giving them another choice—an alternative to directly interconnect with one another," Franco said.

She denied the industry's allegations that PCCI would create a "monopoly backbone."

Like Franco, Sen. Vicente Sotto III denied DOTC and NTC allegations that the franchise would have granted a monopoly to PCCI.

Sotto was the chair of the 11th Congress' Senate committee on public services that approved the bills providing congressional franchises to PCCI and APC on third reading last Feb. 5. The bills were then sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence the next day.

In a privileged speech, Sotto noted that the provisions of the PCCI bill did not grant it an exclusive right.

Citing Section 11 of the bill, he said the franchise holder was given the right to ask and be allowed to interconnect with other telecom carriers "subject to such terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by the parties concerned and the same shall be subject to the review and modification of the NTC."

Sotto said the franchises given to PCCI and APC were no different from the other telecom franchises that were granted by Congress in the past.

"In other words, there is nothing new or substantially different about them when compared to all other franchises of their kind. Certainly, there is nothing irregular about its passage or contents," he said.

He said that the Senate committee on public services approved the bills because the franchise applicants had submitted all the required documents and their business plans were "in harmony with government's thrust toward providing universal access and interconnection."

Voluntary

"Further questioning during the hearing revealed that the proposed interconnection with existing telecom carriers will be on voluntary basis, meaning their clients will only be those who wish to use the corporation's facility for interconnection," Sotto said.

He said the use of "clearinghouse" in the name of the PCCI contributed to the confusion. But the name did not mean that the firm would be a clearinghouse similar to that being used in the banking system, according to Sotto.

He said the PCCI franchise bill was patterned after the US business model—"the setting up of a neutral network of pooling points or interconnection or telecom hotels through which telecom carriers can pool switches or interconnect."

As a result of its interconnection policy, the US now charges one of the lowest telecom rates, according to Sotto.

He said the Senate committee of public services wanted to promote interconnection to allow the people to enjoy this benefit.

Sotto accused NTC Chair Eliseo Rio of recommending the veto of the PPCI franchise bill to protect the interests of big telecom companies.

He said Rio, by his own admission in recent radio interviews, had used his consultations with "major players" in the telecom industry as basis for recommending to the Palace the veto of the bill.

"Commissioner Rio, in clear contravention of the mandate of Rep. Act no. 7925, recommended the veto of the bill, thereby ensuring the protection of the interests of the big telecom companies," Sotto said.

"Who, actually, betrayed the public welfare? Who prevented the setting up of an alternative facility for interconnection?" he asked.

Skeptical

Industry players, however, were highly skeptical of the claims of Franco and Sotto.

They noted that they were not invited to hearings for the clearinghouse bill.

"We are unaware of the passage of the bill. We were not even notified of any hearing," Salalima said.

Carriers said this was highly irregular, as the bill would directly affect them had it been passed.

PCCI wrote Ms Macapagal a letter on March 23 asking her to reconsider her veto, but this effort proved futile.

Ms Macapagal's husband, first gentleman Mike Arroyo, was later linked to a P50-million bribery scandal for allegedly pushing the President to overturn her veto.

No bribery

Franco, however, stressed that both PCCI and APC did not pay anybody for the reversal of the President's veto.

"They (PCCI and APC) did not bribe any person, in or outside government, in seeking a reconsideration of President Macapagal-Arroyo's veto of their franchise applications," she said.

The companies also denied accusations that they were being used as a front by former President Joseph Estrada's close friend, Jaime Dichaves.

"Owners of these companies are not fronting for anybody. The stockholders are all legitimate businessmen," she said.

Sotto said that he would have not questioned the veto of the PCCI bill and that granting a franchise to APC "had it been for the reasons put forth by Malacañang, the DOTC and NTC."

Sotto reminded that when Ms Macapagal vetoed the two bills in April this year, he did not comment at all about it since the President was empowered to veto bills.

"However, this representation was constrained to rise today to defend the integrity of the Senate from accusations that I and the other members of this Chamber have passed a bill that is detrimental to public welfare," the senator added.

Sotto said the committee reports on the two franchise bills were signed by all members of the committee, except Sen. Robert Barbers who was out of the country at that time for medical treatment.

Sotto said that among those who signed the committee reports included then Sen. Teofisto Guingona, now the Vice President, and Sen. Renato Cayetano.

Cayetano asked Sotto whether Dichaves owned PCCI and APC.

Sotto said Dichaves' name did not crop up during the public hearings on the franchise bills.

Answering a query from Sen. Loren Legarda, Sotto said the Palace vetoed no other similar franchise.

Senators agreed to refer Sotto's privileged speech to the Senate committee on public services.

Mikey stands . . .

(From page A1)

be proof. And they should not use it to destabilize the government."

In a July 20 radio interview, Rodrigo alleged that the First Gentleman and three of his friends had tried to have the franchise bill recalled.

She said that two of the three were connected with the Palace and that the third one was a "business associate" of Arroyo's.

She also said Arroyo and his friends had received huge amounts of money.

Documents

Tiglao said the President was to submit all documents to the Ombudsman yesterday afternoon.

"The presidential legal counsel will advise the President on whether there should be an affidavit or a presentation of all the documents for the Ombudsman to decide for himself (what will happen)," Tiglao said.

He said the documents to be submitted would include those pertaining to the franchise, communications from the Speaker of the House and other "relevant" papers.

Asked if the affidavit or documents would be made public, Tiglao said Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz would have to decide on this as it was a "communication" between the Office of the President and the Ombudsman.

Tiglao corrected a reporter who said the matter was a bribery case.

"There isn't a case yet that there's an established bribery," he said. "And obviously, one of the points being considered or evaluated is that quite surprisingly, all of these might have started because of text messages that were interpreted by different parties as actual reports."

Money

Tiglao emphasized that the President did not know who had taken the money.

"What she said was that there were reports of certain lobbying groups but not of any amount changing hands," he said.

Tiglao reiterated that Malacañang welcomed all investigations of the matter, including a reported resolution in the House seeking a probe.

"Congress has the power to investigate anomalies in government," Tiglao said. "A bill is not necessary for that. That's exactly what we're saying—that the First Gentleman is being set up as a straw man, and they will be very frustrated (because it will be shown) that he was not involved at all."

Tiglao expressed the hope that "everyone would be sober about this issue."

"The President assures everyone that the full powers of the presidency would be used to get to the bottom of this, if there is any real case of bribery," he said.

Delasin retains title, wins $150,000

(From page A1)

matter what on Sunday," Pak said moments after finishing a 71. "Even though I have a two-shot lead or a four-shot lead, I know somebody can shoot a low score."

Delasin, whose 65 followed a pair of 69s, finished at 13-under 203 for her second career victory. She climbed to 15th on the money list with the win.

Last year's rookie of the year on the LPGA Tour still does not have a primary sponsor. Her bag and visor both bear name brands, but she does not receive any money for using them.

She credited her patience on the course to her caddie, Clint Begay, brother of PGA Tour player Notah Begay III.

Played solid

"I feel great," she said. "I didn't know what was going to happen today. After all, I was four strokes behind. But I just played really solid. I only made one mistake—I three-putted—and I didn't let that get to me."

Green shot a 68 and was a shot back, barely missing a playoff when her 18-meter (60-foot) chip shot on the final hole rolled to a stop 45 centimeters (18 inches) from the cup.

"Four under is a respectable score on Sunday," Green said. "I've got to give credit to Dorothy. She came out of nowhere to win."

Pak opened with rounds of 67, but closed with a 71 and was alone in third at 205.

The tournament hinged on the stretch holes at Squaw Creek Country Club. Delasin was 3 under on the back nine while Green was even and Pak was 1 over.

Delasin's victories came in the same tournament, but on different courses. The tournament shifted from Avalon Lakes this year.

Pak, who won the Giant Eagle in 1998, began the day with a two-shot lead over Green—who won the tournament in 1994 and 1997—and a three-stroke advantage over Sherri Steinhauer.

A birdie on the first hole pushed the lead to three shots, but birdies at holes No. 2, 6 and 7 pulled Green into a tie.

After both Green and Pak birdied the par-3 ninth hole, they shared the lead at 12 under with Delasin two shots back.

3 birdies

Playing two groups ahead of Green and Pak, Delasin strung together three birdies in a row starting at the par-5 13th hole, two-putting from 10 meters.

At the 14th, she hit a 9-iron to 2.1 meters and rolled in the birdie putt, then choked down on a 5-iron on the 168-meter (185-yard), par-3 15th and ended up 1.5 meters from the cup.

"At 15, I looked at Clint and he said I was in good position," Delasin said. "I hadn't looked at the scoreboards at all."

Meanwhile, Pak was having trouble off the tee just as she had throughout the tournament.

At the 11th, she pulled her drive into the trees and had to take a drop, eventually settling for a double-bogey 6.

Even when her drives did find the fairway, things went wrong. Pak had a long eagle putt at the 13th, but ended up missing a sidehill 90-centimeter birdie putt.

Green avoided trouble, but couldn't dent the lead that Delasin grabbed with her birdie at 15.

"It just wasn't clicking on the back side," she said.

Delasin had an easy two-putt par on the closing hole, then went to the locker room to await the outcome.

Green found the left rough off the 18th tee and left her approach shot 4.5 meters off the green.

She ran her chip just past the pin while a large crowd urged the ball on by shouting, "Go! Go! Go!"

"They came and told me I had won and I said, 'Really?'" Delasin said with a laugh. *AP*

GMA hails Delasin win

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday congratulated Dorothy "Dot" Delasin for her victory at the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic, saying she had shown to the world "the Filipino qualities of resiliency and determination."

The President said Delasin had "the heart of a champion" when she shot a 7-under-par 65, the lowest round of the day, to finally emerge as the winner of the tournament.

"Dot will continue to inspire Filipinos who dream to be among the world's best," Ms Macapagal said in a press statement.

The President, a golf enthusiast herself, had played with Delasin in Manila. The 20-year-old Filipino-American was the LPGA Rookie of the Year in 2000.

Delasin's victory is the second great news for Philippine sports this year.

Last month Manny Pacquiao bagged the International Boxing Federation super bantamweight title through a TKO victory over his South African opponent at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Megawati picks . . .

(From page A1)

Undersecretary Cerge Remonde told reporters.

"It's more like a sentimental, symbolic visit" that takes into account the "special affinity" of the two southeast Asian neighbors, Remonde added.

He said the itinerary of the Manila visit has not been fixed, but that it was likely the two leaders would hold direct talks.

Jakarta announced earlier yesterday that Megawati will make a five-day trip to all fellow member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) from Aug. 22-26, starting with the Philippines.

Indonesia's parliament installed Megawati, the former vice president and daughter of the country's founding president Sukarno, on July 23 after sacking Abdurrahman Wahid, who it accused of mismanagement and corruption.

Ms Macapagal, daughter of former Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal, came to power last January in a popular revolt that eased out her corruption-plagued predecessor Joseph Estrada.

Megawati is also scheduled to visit Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. *AFP*

Goldcup derby on

THE MUCH-AWAITED Goldcup 4-Cock Derby will be held today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by William "Goldcup" Go, a popular cocker in Mandaluyong, Del Monte, Malabon, Pasig, Marikina, San Mateo and Pasay cockpits, this derby promises exciting and non-stop fights of feathered gladiators.

Among the respected cockers who confirmed their participation in this derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug, Inc. were RJ Valor, Toto Valentino, TJ Marquez, Jobo del Rosario, lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillosa, Tonette Luzurriaga, Benjie Lim, Tony tan, Ricky Castillo and others.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted on the day of the derby, today, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Roligon.

Known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," Ty said that fights will start at exactly 7 p.m. But if there are more than 70 entries the derby will begin at 6 p.m.

Some of the derbies scheduled at Roligon are Aug. 4-Molino IV 4-cock derby hosted by Jess Capus, ASF, Jonarie (RT 114) and Leo Mojeno and Aug. 7-Sentenciador 3-cock derby.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Armstrong makes it 3 in a row

PARIS — At long last, Lance Armstrong got to do some sightseeing.

Riding at a leisurely pace down the Champs-Elysees in the final stage of the Tour de France, the Texan caught a good look at the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde and the Louvre museum.

It mattered little that he finished the stretch in 70th place.

He had locked up his third Tour title an entire week earlier in the mountains, where there was no time for taking in the scenery.

The jagged peaks of the Alps flashed by as Armstrong sprinted to the top of L'Alpe d'Huez, leaving his main rival, Jan Ullrich, a huge 1:59 behind.

Nor was there was opportunity to appreciate the wild beauty of the densely wooded Pyrenees when Armstrong powered up a grueling climb to Pla d'Adet, cementing his lead.

He won the stage, taking the leader's yellow jersey, which he kept all the way to Paris. He looked up to the sky and dedicated his victory to former teammate Fabio Casartelli, who fatally crashed there in the 1995 Tour.

Back on flat ground, it was head down and eyes on the road once again in the final time-trial, never mind the green rolling hills of central France.

The sacrifice was worth it. Armstrong built up a lead of six minutes and 44 seconds over Ullrich in the overall standings, an unbeatable advantage that only accident or sickness in the final days could have undone.

So there was no need for extra exertion on Sunday, and Armstrong crossed the finish line with the main pack, lost but for his bright yellow jersey among his colorfully clad fellow riders.

"It's the best feeling of the last three (wins)," Armstrong said in faltering French after finishing the last of 20 legs. "As always I am happy to finally arrive, to finally finish the Tour. It's a special feeling."

With the majestic Arc de Triomphe behind him, Armstrong stood at attention during "The Star-Spangled Banner" and smiled with satisfaction as he savored an end to three weeks of grueling racing.

The only hitch came when he tried to take a lap of honor; the Texas flag he was waving got caught briefly in his bike chain. He grinned sheepishly as he awaited help, then continued up the Champs-Elysees as tens of thousands of spectators looked on.

French fans, who favor their own cycling heroes and find Armstrong somewhat distant, cheered his achievement.

"He's untouchable, it's true," said Dominique Maquet, 43, who came to Paris from the Ardennes region near Belgium to watch the finish under a scorching July sun.

His ride to victory had been in some ways the most impressive of all three wins. Because this time, the field that he crushed was in top form _ especially Ullrich.

On Sunday, Armstrong became the only American to win three straight Tours. Greg LeMond also won three times, but with a two-year gap between his first and second titles.

The Tour record is five titles, but for now Armstrong says he isn't interested.

Czech rider Jan Svorada won Sunday's stage, the 20th of a more-than 3,400-kilometer (2,100-mile) ride through France and Belgium. *AP*

ARMSTRONG

Lance warms up to French crowd

PARIS —At home, Lance Armstrong is a genuine hero. But in France, where he's dominated the country's signature event three years in a row, the Tour de France champion evokes a more muted reaction.

Of course, it doesn't help that he isn't French. But it's more than that: The public admires Armstrong's huge talent, but sees the Texan as somewhat cold and distant.

And while his total mastery of this year's race should only add luster to his legend, it actually makes him less sympathetic to some fans here who like their champions to sweat, show some pain and, occasionally, lose.

"Arch-dominator," the daily Parisien newspaper called Armstrong recently—an image a bit more suited to "Star Wars" than a cycling contest. "Armstronginator," said the sports daily L'Equipe.

But Armstrong is trying to change all that.

While insisting the Tour de France "isn't a popularity contest," he has attempted to warm up to the crowds, speaking a pleasantly mangled form of French in TV interviews. He ended one such exchange with a cheerful, "Merci, monsieur!"

Yet Armstrong is treated more respectfully by the French media now than during his first Tour victory in 1999, when he stunned the world with his inspirational comeback from testicular cancer. Then, despite his moving story, some French headlines used double meanings to show disbelief that he could ride so well without the help of banned drugs.

"Hallucinating," said one. *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	64	41	.609	—
Boston	60	44	.577	3 1/2
Toronto	48	58	.453	16 1/2
Baltimore	44	61	.419	20
Tampa Bay	34	71	.324	30
Central				
Cleveland	60	44	.577	—
Minnesota	60	45	.571	1/2
Chicago	51	52	.495	8 1/2
Detroit	45	58	.437	14 1/2
Kansas City	41	64	.391	19 1/2
West				
Seattle	76	29	.724	—
Oakland	56	49	.533	20
Anaheim	53	52	.505	23
Texas	46	58	.442	29 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	60	45	.571	—
Philadelphia	57	48	.543	3
Florida	52	52	.500	7 1/2
New York	49	57	.462	11 1/2
Montreal	45	61	.424	15 1/2
Central				
Chicago	61	43	.586	—
Houston	57	48	.543	4 1/2
St. Louis	52	51	.505	8 1/2
Milwaukee	45	58	.437	15 1/2
Cincinnati	41	63	.394	20
Pittsburgh	41	63	.394	20
West				
Los Angeles	61	45	.576	—
Arizona	59	46	.562	1 1/2
San Francisco	57	49	.538	4
San Diego	51	54	.486	9 1/2
Colorado	44	61	.419	16 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. Yankees 9, Toronto 3; Detroit 8, Cleveland 3; Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 3; Oakland 6, Kansas City 4; Seattle 10, Minnesota 2; Baltimore 1, Anaheim 0; Texas 2, Tampa Bay 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 5; Cincinnati 8, Florida 4; Atlanta 8, Montreal 1; Pittsburgh 4, Houston 1; San Diego 12, Milwaukee 5; San Francisco 4, Arizona 3; Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 5; Colorado 3, Los Angeles 2. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

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BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship, Men's Finals at 9:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, Second Round at 8 p.m. (delayed) on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN
ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup, Semifinals at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: WNBA - Orlando Miracle vs Cleveland Rockers at 7:30 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN
VOLLEYBALL: FIVB Beach Volleyball - Switzerland Open, Men's 3rd Place and Final at 3 p.m., Women's Semifinals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour Highlights at 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. (r) on ESPN
TRACK AND FIELD: IAAF Grand Prix 2001 – Lausanne at 12 noon (r), Stockholm at 11 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Tracksters backed

NESTLE Milo will support the Philippine track and field team to the 21st Southeast Asian Games slated from Sept 8-17 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, signed the agreement with Jackby Jaime, Nestle Milo sports executive.

Present during the signing were Cathy Arguelles, senior account executive and Sherylle Mailom, account executive of Publicis-AMA. The agreement paved the way for the naming of the athletics team as Team Milo Philippines.

Eyeing free agents

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

BECAUSE of the intricate salary cap rules and the dreaded dollar-for-dollar luxury tax, many NBA teams have been hesitant to aggressively go after players on the free-agent market, opting instead to focus their energy on locking up their own free agents.

Moreover, only the Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Clippers and Detroit Pistons have significant salary-cap space (at least $13 million each) to spend on a topnotch free agent or two.

However, the marquee free agents do not consider the Bulls or Clippers as a viable option because of their losing reputation. In the end, they decide to re-sign with their old clubs even as these teams dangerously hover near the luxury tax threshold, which will likely be between $53 million and $54 million, due to the players' maximum-allowable contracts.

In most cases, money was the biggest consideration why many free agents agreed to a renewal. Loyalty and stability were only afterthoughts. (Read: Sacramento All-Star forward Chris Webber, who had publicly declared his disdain for the subdued lifestyle in the California capital but eventually agreed to remain with the Kings because there were no other team that could secure him the largest contract allowable under labor rules of nearly $125 million over seven years.)

Other prominent free agents who have stayed put include San Antonio's David Robinson, New York's Allan Houston, Dallas' Michael Finley, Toronto's Antonio Davis, Philadelphia's Dikembe Mutombo and Aaron McKie, Atlanta's Nazr Mohammed and Detroit's Corliss Williamson.

On the other hand, free agents who have switched addresses include Patrick Ewing (Seattle) and Horace Grant (LA Lakers), who split Orlando's $4.5-million salary-cap exception; Denver's Avery Johnson (San Antonio), Phoenix's Dan Majerle (Miami), Utah's John Amaechi (Orlando), New York's Clarence Weatherspoon (Cleveland), Miami's LaPhonso Ellis (Minnesota), Dallas' Adrian Griffin (Boston) and Minnesota's Joe Smith (Detroit).

The beneficiary of the first sign-and-trade arrangement of this year's free-agent race is Derek Anderson. The 6-5, 27-year-old guard, who was grossly underpaid at $2.25 million (the old mid-level cap exception) in his only year with San Antonio last season, was sent along with aging backup guard Steve Kerr to the Portland Trail Blazers for unhappy guard Kenny Smith after securing a six-year guaranteed pact from the Spurs worth $48 million. The long-term contract also contains an opt-out clause after five years.

The 35-year-old Kerr was a throw-in to make the trade work under cap rules. Smith, a 6-8 shooting guard, had sought a trade after the Trail Blazers refused to give him a two-year extension of his contract, which has two years and $19 million remaining.

The sign-and-trade deal benefitted both Anderson and the Spurs. Anderson got a more lucrative deal and San Antonio received compensation it otherwise was not entitled to if Anderson had signed directly with Portland.

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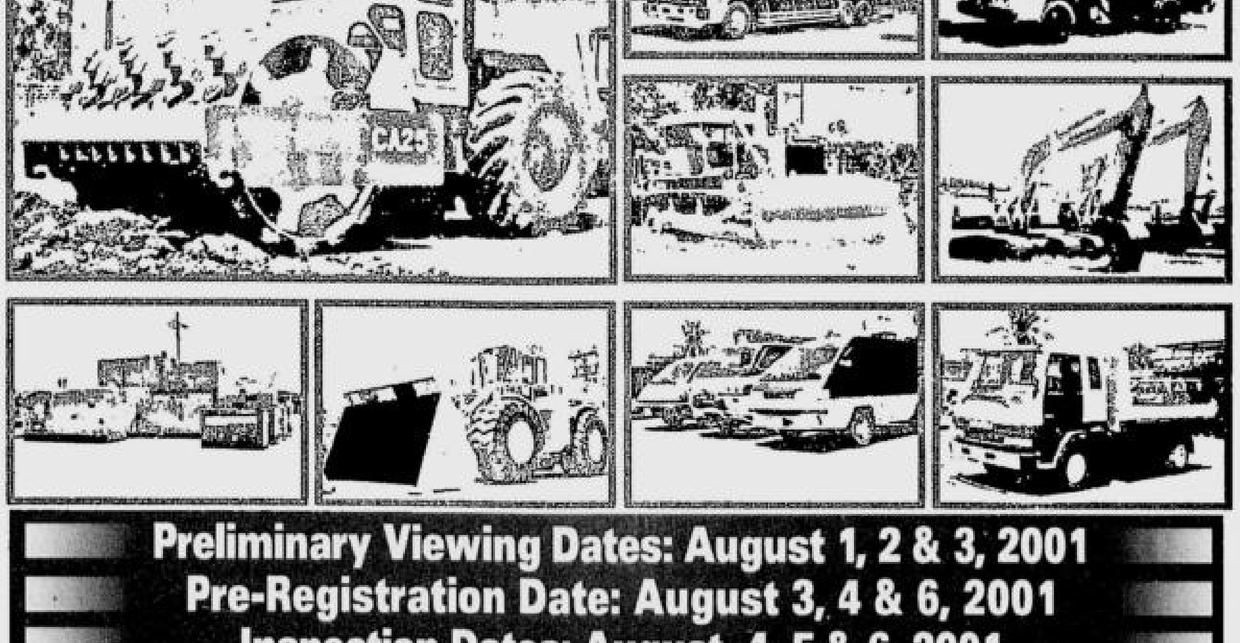

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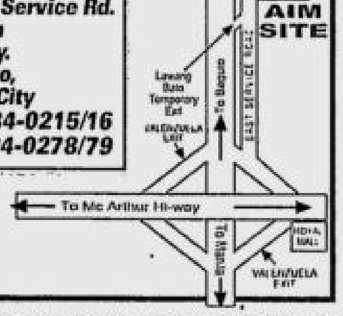

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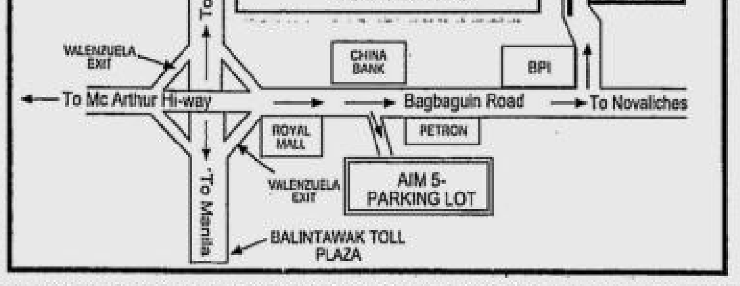

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Purefoods gets 1-year reprieve

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PBA Board of Governors yesterday granted Purefoods a one-year reprieve, allowing the franchise to excite its multitude of fans until 2002.

PBA chair Ignatius Yenko said the board gave the franchise a special accommodation for being a "good citizen" since 1988, the year that the Hotdogs joined the league.

"There were no violations as far as the PBA constitution is concerned. Only a special accommodation for the best interest of the league," said Yenko after the three-hour meeting at the Manila Golf Club.

Yenko declined to reveal the members of the board who voted for and against Purefoods' appeal for extension.

Purefoods needed the nod of six out of the nine governors of the board or two-thirds vote for an extension.

The decision, however, drew mixed reactions from the team's players and coaching staff.

"As long as the Purefoods team will stay together it's a welcome news for us. At least we get to live another day," said Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano.

In contrast, swingman Noy Castillo said: "I was hoping for a permanent decision. I'm still hoping for better news."

After 2002, Yenko said Purefoods should either sell its franchise to a third party or opt for a total disbandment of the squad.

"But that's another issue that would eventually be brought up internally by the board," he added.

The idea of disbandment cropped up after San Miguel Corporation bought Purefoods, bringing to three the number of teams it owns in the league.

SMC can only keep two teams in the league as far as the PBA policy is concerned.

Two hours into the meeting, former PBA chair Wilfred Uystengsu of Alaska hatched the idea of amending the league's constitution and by-laws before deliberating on Purefoods' fate.

NCAA today

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Letran vs JRU (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SSC vs CSB (jrs/srs)

Ralf wins; Michael crashes out of race

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—At the end of a hectic day of Formula One racing, the Schumacher brothers could look back at the dramatic events and slap each other on the back. Which they did.

Ralf won the home Grand Prix, Michael escaped unhurt from his second crash in as many weeks and although he failed to finish, his chances of retaining the title and securing his fourth championship are better than ever.

Ralf's third victory of the season offered solace to the 100,000 German fans, who were dismayed to see Michael in an accident and then forced to abandon Sunday's race.

With his victory, Ralf joined his older brother as the only Germans to win the home Grand Prix.

Only 10 drivers finished the 45-lap race and the casualties included Michael's only challenger for the title David Coulthard and Ralf's BMW-Williams teammate Juan Pablo Montoya, the pole sitter.

"I've had a lot of bad luck on this track, not always finishing in a good position, so it's a great feeling to win here in Germany," Ralf said. "German package, German driver, German race _ a perfect scenario."

Michael's Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello, last year's winner, finished second, ahead of former champion Jacques Villeneuve in a BAR-Honda.

"It would have been nice to get on the podium with Ralf and Rubens and the fans would have liked it," Michael said.

Michael's Ferrari had gear problems at the start as he tried to move from fourth position. As cars from down the grid passed the crawling Ferrari, Burti rammed it in his Prost.

Burti's car flipped, landed upside down, bounced up and turned over another time before sliding into the gravel and almost disintegrating. Schumacher and Burti talked as they walked away from the crash. A Jaguar mechanic was slightly hurt by flying debris.

"Suddenly I had no gear and could not move forward," Schumacher said. "I could only roll and I looked in my rearview mirror. I saw Burti coming but I had no chance to move over. It was scary, I was worried that worse could have happened."

Schumacher escaped virtually uninjured from a bad crash during testing in Monza the week before the race.

With debris all over the track, officials decided to restart the race.

Walking to the pits, Michael waved to the fans, thinking his race was over, when he noticed that officials had called for a restart. He sprinted to the Ferrari box and jumped into the spare car. It gave up on lap 24 of the restarted race with fuel pressure problems, right after his pit stop.

Burti said the crash looked worse on television. However, he injured his left arm in the crash and with pain making it difficult to hold the wheel, he spun out in the same lap.

Villeneuve and Coulthard complained about the restart decision, saying the race should have gone on since the cars had already driven a lap behind the safety car. *AP*

RALF Schumacher (left) and Jacques Villeneuve spray champagne on each other. AP

UP, Ateneo barge into finals of 4 on 4 soccer

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines A and Ateneo High School ruled their respective groups and barged into the national finals of the inaugural Lipovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour tournament recently at the Claret School covered courts.

The Diliman-based booters downed two teams from Ateneo, UP Diliman B and UP Mountaineers to sweep the Lipovitan XL men's college division, while the Ateneo high schoolers vanquished Claret A and B to make the national finals slated Aug. 25-26 at the Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

UP, thus, joined early finalist Rizal Technological University in the men's finals.

Also advancing into the Lipovitan IRA women's side is UP Diliman B, which dominated Miriam College and UP Diliman A and C.

Organized by Pro-Aide, the first-ever 4 on 4 soccer competition in the coutry is being sponsored by Taisho Pharmaceuticals Phils, maker of Lipovitan IRA, XL and LPO. The co-sponsors are Mizuno, Magic 89.9, Excel Press, Pöwerplant Mall. Dexter M. Araquel is project director.

Coached by Earl Mendez, UP is composed of Pat Velasco, Paulo Manuel, Andres Gonzales, Radnee Posadas and Andrew Santiago.

Miguel Villadolid, Pat Ozaeta, Ignatius Ingles, Roger Lastimado and Gino Tongson comprised the winning Ateneo side, which is being coached by Bob Manlulo. Kristinjoi Comia, Barbara Abrogar, June Castelo, Isabel Bermejo, Haru Sabijon bannered UP Diliman's B team with Mike Athab as mentor.
Don Bosco Makati earlier made it to the HS boys in this campus tour, which has been drawing big crowds.

AGASSI

Agassi defeats Sampras in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2

LOS ANGELES —Andre Agassi continued his recent domination of Pete Sampras with a 6-4, 6-2 victory Sunday in an all-American Mercedes-Benz Cup final– his most lopsided win in two years over his rival.

Agassi trails 17-14 in the 12-year rivalry, but he's won the last three meetings, including a three-set victory on hardcourts in Indian Wells in March.

"You wake up differently when you play him in a big match," Agassi said. "It brings out the best in my game."

While Agassi leads the ATP in points and money, Sampras hasn't won a tournament since capturing his seventh Wimbledon crown last year. He was upset in the fourth round this year by Swiss teenager Roger Federer.

Sampras is 22-12 this year. and has gone 14 tournaments without winning a trophy _ the longest since he won his first ATP Tour title in the 34th event of his career in 1990.

Clijsters triumphs

STANFORD, California—Belgium's Kim Clijsters captured her first WTA title of the year, beating American Lindsay Davenport for the first time in five career matches. Third seed Clijsters outlasted second seed Davenport 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1 here Sunday to win a $565,000 WTA hardcourt event, taking the top prize of 90,000 dollars to deny Davenport a third title here in four years. *AP*

Gordon eyes RP as haven for sports

TOKYO—Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon broke ground in tourism promotions as he paved the way for the recognition of the Philippines as a haven for sports training.

Starting off with Japanese baseball teams, Gordon said he hopes to bring into the country the world's top athletes for them to take advantage of its long warm climate.

Visiting Japan for five days last week, Gordon's schedule included a meeting with Hiromori Kawashima, Commissioner for Professional Baseball in Japan, and other baseball officials. Among them is Takashi Nikojima, president of the Nippon Ham Fighters. Nippon Ham team's training here during Japan's winter season.

10 YEARS AGO

Jack Nicklaus defeated Chi Chi Rodriguez in a playoff to win the US Senior Open. Jack had 7 birdies in finishing with a 5-under-par 65, matching the course record at the old Oakland Hills.

Andre: My kid will beat Pete's

LOS ANGELES—Andre Agassi joked that the baby he and Steffi Graf are expecting would beat a future Sampras offspring.

"I've got a hundred bucks that says my baby beats Pete's baby," Agassi told the crowd Sunday at the Los Angeles Tennis Center.

Agassi and Graf are expecting a baby boy in December. Graf dominated women's tennis with a lethal forehand before retiring in 1999.

"I've got genetics on my side," Agassi later told reporters.

Sampras married actress Bridgette Wilson last September. They have yet to start a family, but Sampras believes his 1.86-meter (6-foot-1) height combined with Wilson's 1.76 (5-9) stature would be an advantage over the 1.81-meter (5-11) Agassi and 1.76 (5-9) Graf.

"The only thing is if I have a little girl, I could be in trouble," Sampras said, noting that parental tennis ability didn't impact his success.

"My parents didn't pick up a racket and I turned out all right." *AP*

Del Rosario paces jetsports

RIDER OF THE YEAR: 1. Paul del Rosario 240 pts., 2. Carlo Baltao 228 pts., 3. John Dee 221 pts., 4. Rene Pamaran 209 pts.

SUBIC—Top contenders, led by defending champion Paul del Rosario, try to beef up their title bids as the Jetsports Association of the Philippines (JSAP) stages the third leg of the 2001 Petron National Jetsports Series this weekend, Aug. 4-5, at the Waterfront Beach here.

All participants are urged to attend the riders briefing and the awards rites for the second leg tomorrow, Aug. 1, at 8 p.m. at the Famous Mike's Restaurant in Libis, Quezon City.

Del Rosario, seeking his third straight Rider of the Year crown, leads the race with 240 points as he eyes his third straight perfect feat in the premiere Expert Runabout Super Stock 1200 class of this event sponsored by Petron Corporation and WG&A Super Ferry.

But it's still an open race for the coveted plum as three other riders are just close behind—Carlo Baltao, John Dee and Pagadian native Rene Pamaran.

"This could be the toughest series in years," said JSAP president Joey Mantolino. "With two legs to go and the points too close for comfort, it's still hard to determine who among these riders will capture this year's crown."

Race director Sonny Yalung even designed a tougher but safe track to further challenge the skills and endurance of the riders as well as the efficiency of their machines.

Making this leg even more exciting is the comeback of the stand-up class and the equally thrilling women's race where five riders—Kathy de los Santos, Samantha Yalung, Angel Dee, Charlene Ang and Ana Hyde—will show their male counterparts the stuff they're made of.

For other interested participants, call Beth Francisco at 633-1661 to 62, Dong Arcilla at 721-8007 or JSAP president Joey Mantolino at 843-5839.

A two-week break spells magic for Dot

BY JONG ARCANO

THE FATHER-COACH wasn't there to give her a bear hug and victory lift but Fil-American hotshot Dorothy "Dot" Delasin made sure she had the perfect gift for him after retaining her crown yesterday in the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic in Vienna, Ohio.

After overcoming a four-shot deficit with a career-best, seven-under-par 65 to win by one stroke, Delasin called her father, Sonny, in their South San Francisco home and asked him to pack his bags quick.

"What for?" asked Sonny.

"You are in for a European vacation," said Dorothy.

"Yeah? Not bad," said the elder Delasin, who was busy tending to their family-owned restaurant inside the Lincoln Golf Club when news of her daughter's spectacular victory came.

The Delasins are actually headed for a major mission this week—compete in the $1.5 million Weetabix Women's British Open starting Thursday. In this trip, Dorothy wants her father to take a sidetrip to Paris "to see the sights."

Since Dorothy, a Cinnabon protege, was already campaigning on the LPGA Tour with a new caddie, the vacation offer came as a big surprise to the elder Delasin.

It was almost a year ago when the then 19-year-old won the same tournament en route to winning the Rookie of the Year honors in the LPGA. The poignant scene of father and daughter in a tight victory embrace last year at greenside lent a dramatic ending to the event. Sonny then caddied for Dorothy.

Delasin's victory yesterday was scored with a new caddy, Clint Begay, brother of PGA Tour standout Notah.

Delasin beat Tammie Green by one and the celebrated Se Ri Pak by two with a 54-hole aggregate of 13-under 203 at the Squaw Creek Country Club (*see related story on Page one*).

Pak had won eight of the 10 tournaments where she led going into the final round. Delasin had dealt her both losses.

When many felt that buying a house worth no less than $700,000 in a San Francisco suburb after she won last year was "a waste of money," Delasin has been steadily showing she did the right move. Her game is proving to be equal to the task of maintaining a comfortable lifestyle, a far cry from a life of near-poverty levels before scoring the breakthrough win last year.

FILE PHOTO
SONNY (right) and Dorothy.

Much has changed since Dorothy started ringing the cash register in the LPGA last year. Aside from their five-room, three-carport home, the Delasins now own three vehicles, including a swanky Saab sedan given her as part of a sponsorship deal.

The $150,000 paycheck she earned yesterday boosted her earnings this season to $416,145, still far behind the leading Annika Sorenstam. But yesterday's paycheck pushed her from 27th to 15th in the money list. It also cemented her stint for the 2002 LPGA season.

Delasin said the key to her victory was not looking at the scoreboard.

"At 15, I looked at Clint and he said I was in good position," Delasin said. "I hadn't looked at the scoreboard at all."

The same strategy of not looking at the scoreboard propelled David Duval to the British Open crown recently.

Delasin took a two-week break from the tour last month to prepare for her title defense. Much of that free time, according to her father, was spent in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she was joined by the Begay brothers.

"That break certainly had given her all the confidence she needed to defend the crown," said the elder Delasin, now operating a small restaurant named Divine Café.

The restaurant had taken away the father from the daughter.

But Clint Begay seemed to be a suitable replacement.

"We've signed him up for the caddying chores for our Dorothy," said Sonny, a self-taught golfer who taught Dorothy the basics of the game. "I think we did the right decision."

Delasin's key to victory

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

COURAGE and toughness. That saved In Jun Chi of South Korea and Julio Gonzalez of Mexico from getting knocked out Sunday atop a ring at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

Both were up against two of the best boxers in the world today. Chi against Eric Morales, Gonzalez against Roy Jones Jr. They lost. On points. But not after each had put up a courageous stand that made the Bataan defenders of World War II mere midgets in bravery. If the Death March survivors each had received a Purple Heart award, Chi and Gonzales deserved a medal each for valor.

For 12 rounds, Chi and Gonzales absorbed the most telling punches ever unleashed in boxing; they were mere pats on the back. OK, Gonzalez fell three times with wicked hits thrown with almost the speed of sound; three times, he rose, defiant of Jones' blows that kayoed 36 of his 44 foes before Sunday's fight.

In the end, Morales and Jones didn't win. They merely survived.

■

Ramon E. Karganilla of 2314 Zamora Street, Santa Ana, Manila, writes to say "a Pacquiao-Espinosa bout won't benefit any the two great fighters." His letter:

"Dear Sir:

"The Dream Fight between IBF super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao and Luisito Espinosa won't benefit any of the two fighters. Some aficionados look forward to the matchup, perhaps not realizing that should the bout end in a stoppage, the loser's career would be in jeopardy. So, why see them destroy each other? Pacquiao has the youth and punching power, while Luisito has the longer experience and can still be dangerous. He can punch too and is not yet washed-up. Luisito can be champ again and has a good chance of beating Derreck Gainer (WBA featherweight champ, 37-5).

"I salute Tiger Ari for retaining his OPBF super featherweight title by knockout in two rounds. Your Sports Section says that his manager, Bebot Elorde, is considering a match for Ari with WBC champion, Floyd Mayweather. This seems to be a tall order for now. We all know that Floyd had demolished Diego Corrales and Angel Manfredy, both in awesome sytle. Floyd ranks third behind Shane Mosley and Felix Trinidad in the Ring Magazine's pound for pound ratings. I suggest that Tiger Ari instead challenge Steve Forrest (IBF super featherweight champion, 19-1)."

Thank you, Ramon. Hope to hear from you again?

■

A four-stroke deficit in golf is like a 12-point deficit in basketball with three minutes left in the game. A big lead to overhaul, indeed, but it can be overhauled, though.

Achieving a come-from-behind victory is harder in golf than in most sports.

In golf, you have almost 50 opponents on the average. Going to the last round, every player within striking distance of the leader is bent on winning it. Usually, there are at least 10 players with chances of scoring a victory. In golf, no leader is assured of victory. Not until the last putt has been dropped.

Dorothy "Dot" Delasin, last year's winner, was almost counted out of the title picture going to yesterday's last round in the Giant Eagle Classic in Vienna, Ohio. Despite two 69s, she was four shots behind Se Ri Pak, the leader going into the third and last round.

Playing almost flawless golf, Dot shot a career-best 65 to win by one. Three birdies in a row from the 13th set her up for the win. After her birdie on the par-3, 168-yard 15th from 5 feet after a 5-iron, Dot knew she had a chance at it. After scoring a 3 under at the back, she went to the locker room to await the outcome.

When finally she had won it, Dot said, "I had not looked at the scoreboard at all."

To me, that was the key to her rally, the key to her victory.

Mystics down Sting

WASHINGTON — Nikki McCray scored 15 of her game-high 23 points in the first half as the Washington Mystics beat the Charlotte Sting 55-42 Sunday. The Mystics, who won consecutive games for just the third time this season, snapped Charlotte's two-game winning streak and dealt the Sting their third straight road loss. *AP*

Indonesia rips PMI, 97-79

RIKO Hantono fired 27 points while Ali Budimansyah shot 18 as the visiting Indonesian national team turned back Philippine Maritime Institute, 97-79, yesterday in the National Basketball League Invitational Championship at the PMI gym. The win tied Indonesia with St. Francis of Assisi College and University of Manila.

MBA recalls cagers

IN A move designed to hasten the early resolution of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) leadership imbroglio, the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA) board yesterday unanimously supported the International Basketball Federation's (Fiba) call for unity in the BAP.

The MBA board expressed its total support to all efforts to unify the warring factions led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat and Quintellano "Tiny" Literal, who were both censured by the Fiba that led to the country's suspension from the world basketball governing body.

MBA team owners also recalled members of the national team to their mother squads, although they reiterated the league's commitment to represent the country in future international competitions should the need arise.

"We are not turning our backs on our commitment. First and foremost, we are Filipinos and are proud to carry our tri-color in international competitions. We have kept that in our minds, despite controversies and intrigues," MBA chair Santiago Araneta of LBC-Batangas Blades said.

"We represented the country and won the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship with the same commitment and love for the country in our hearts. There is nothing that would change our stand," Araneta said.

League bigwigs also said BAP leaders should settle their differences before the Fiba deadline set today.

"Everything is pointing toward unity and it has been our dream, no to see a united BAP and we are putting our anchor on the Fiba's order, if it would galvanize us further and show our real strength as sports-loving Filipinos," Araneta said.

MBA business development director Ramon Tuason said the warring factions should also open themselves to finding alternative solutions to their dispute.

"My personal thought is if they (Puyat and Literal) would accept the steering committee proposed by Manny Pangilinan, who is himself a sportsman, there is a high possibility we could still form a competitive national team for the SEA Games, with whatever little time is left for us," Tuason said. "There should be nothing to prevent us from competing in the Games, including our personal and professional differences."

Spring Oil enters semis

Games Today
2:00 p.m.—Mighty Tobacco vs Hub Net Café
3:30 p.m.—MMC-Rexona vs Wang's
5:00 p.m.—Army vs PMI

NATIONAL shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil team blasted Hub Net Café, 74-61, recently to clinch a semifinal slot in the Spiceland-NBC Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Rodel Mallari and Jun Dural fired 18 and 17 points, respectively, to spark coach Tito Palma's Spring cagers to their fifth win in six games and an automatic twice-to-beat semis seat by virtue of the winner-over-the-other rule.

Konica Nueva subdued MMC-Rexona, 97-90, Wang's ball Club routed PMI, 93-78, and Army downed Mighty Tobacco, 93-85, in the other games in the tourney sponsored by Pisong Asin, Spring Margarine, Tanduay Distillery, Red Bull, Mobiline, SMB, Ginebra San Miguel, Purefoods, Shell, Sta. Lucia Realty, Pop Cola and Alaska and supported by Milo.

Konica also posted a 5-1 record, followed by Wang's (4-1), Army (3-3), Hub Net Café (2-3), PMI (2-4), MMC-Rexona (1-4) and Mighty Tobacco (0-5).

WAZZZZUP?
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TUESDAY, JULY 31 912-8983

Compton 'Hardcourt Hero of the Week'

HE'S been named the league's "Mr. Heartbreaker" because many times during first three years in the Metropolitan Basketball Association, Alex Compton won games for his former team (Manila Metro Stars) during crunchtime.

Just when their opponents are set to celebrate their victory, Compton will fire his signature long trey that will serve as the winning basket for his team and will spoil the celebration of the other team.

On July 22, Compton, now playing for the LBC Batangas Blades, struck again as he made a long 3-point shot in the final 11 seconds of their game, giving his team a 75-74 thriller of a win over Negros at the De La Salle Sentrum in Lipa City.

The feat gave Compton his second Hardcourt Hero of the Week citation after being named as the first recipient of the award early last month.

With only 1 minute and 48 seconds left, the Slashers seemed to be headed for their ninth win. But the Blades unleashed a 9-2 run to trim the lead down to 1 point, 72-73, 24 ticks left.

Jeffrey Sanders and Compton hit back-to-back treys while Ralph Rivera converted a Blitz Three basket during the stretch before Dennis Madrid split his free throws for the Slashers' 74-72 lead.

Compton, the league's MVP in 1999, was set by the screen provided by teammates Romel Adducul and Chu-chu Serrano to sink the Blades' winning shot.

"*Hindi na bago yun para kay* Alex," said Blades coach Nash Racela. "*Noong nasa* Manila *pa siya, ginagawa na niya yan* against Batangas. *Kaya nga siya tinawag na* Mr. Heartbreaker. *Diyan nga ako hanga sa kanya.* As a professional player, every game, he plays his hearts out. He always gives his best which really helps us a lot cause he inspires his other teammates."

Compton topscored for the Blades in that victory against the Slashers with 20-points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal and 1 block. It was Batangas' ninth win against two losses before absorbing its third loss to the defending champion Andok's San Juan Knights last Sunday, 63-89.

Other candidates for the award were his teammates Ralph Rivera and Romel Adducul, Chris Clay and Biboy Simon of FedEx Laguna Lakers, Raffy Reavis of Andok's San Juan Knights and Peter Naron of the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems.

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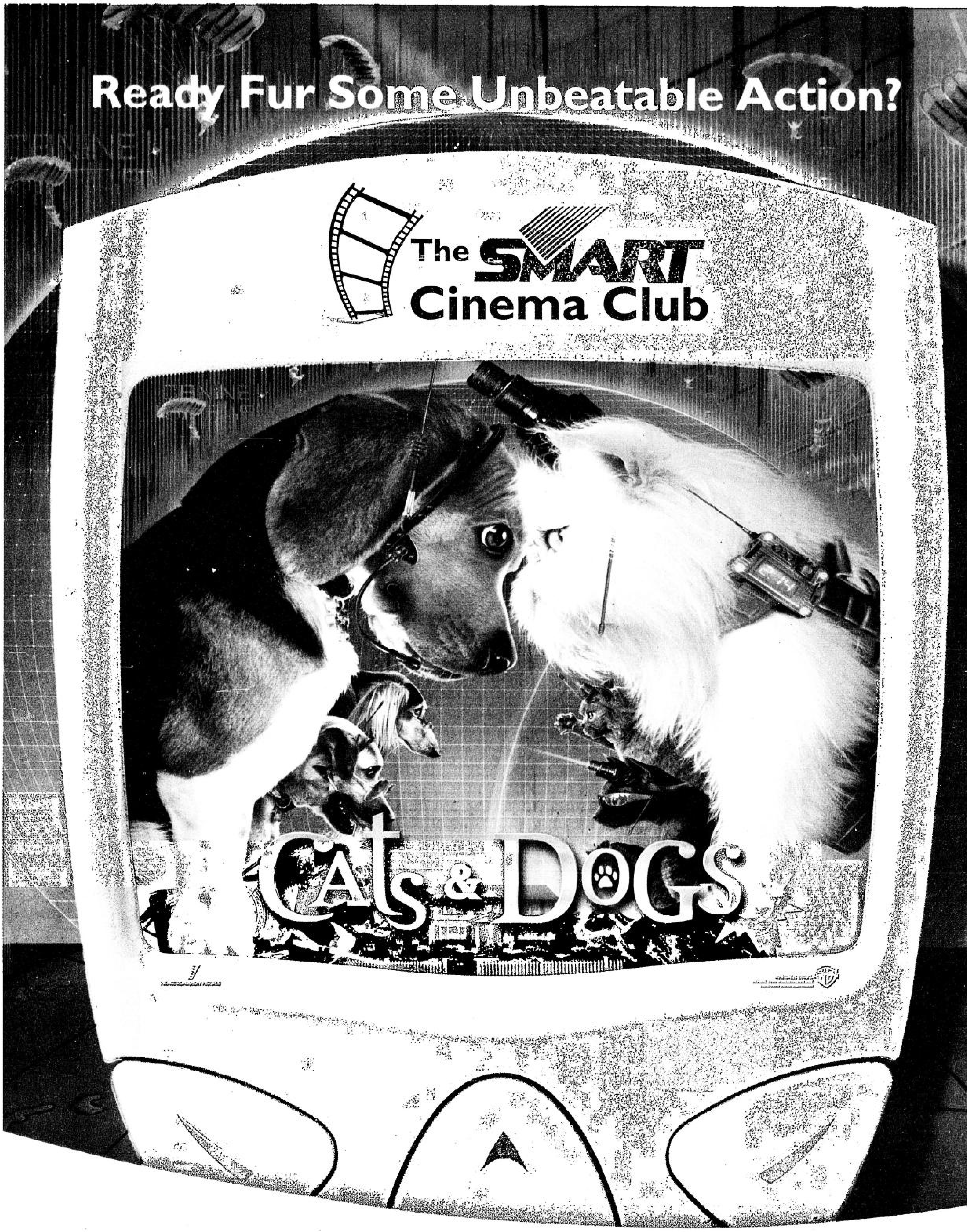
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Slain EPD man gutted, mutilated

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THE KILLERS of Insp. German Hepuller of the Eastern Police District also cut off his sex organ and removed his internal organs.

"The killing could not have been done by people with stable minds," Chief Supt. George Aliño, the EPD head, said yesterday. "The suspects must be very angry."

Hepuller, 37, was part of the Eastern Police District operations and planning division. He went missing for four days after he left his house at Crestaville II Subdivision in Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal after midnight of July 25 to buy milk for his daughter.

On Saturday, Hepuller's body was found floating in a river in Taytay, police said.

The policeman's hands and feet were bound, police said. Hepuller also had bruises in the face and body, two stab wounds in the body and severe injuries in the head.

His .9mm service pistol was missing, police said.

Aliño yesterday sent two teams of policemen to work with the Taytay police in solving Hepuller's killing.

He said he and his men have "good" leads but he refused to give a time frame for the arrest of the suspects.

Aliño said Hepuller's wife Amelia and mother Salvacion were cooperating with police in the investigation of the murder.

But the EPD chief would not reveal more details about the case, saying it might preempt efforts to track down and arrest the suspects.

"We are working on all angles," Aliño said. "We are receiving bits of information regarding the case and we are closely coordinating with the Taytay police to crack the case as soon as possible."

Residents along the Pasig River floodway in Taytay found Hepuller's body floating in the river.

Polie said Hepuller was in the same clothes he wore when he left his house for the last time, including a white T-shirt with "San Juan Cop" printed on it.

On Sunday, Aliño noted that Hepuller was the president of the homeowners' association in his subdivision.

Hepuller's colleague PO1 Elpidio Castillo reportedly had a brush with a neighbor of Hepuller's last month when he accompanied Hepuller home.

Castillo reportedly arrested a man wielding a samurai sword in Hepuller's neighborhood. The arrest was said to have angered another man who was later seen on the roof of his house getting ready to throw stones at the policemen as they passed by.

Hayashi killer could still be free, cops say

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A WITNESS had described as young and dashing a man he claimed to have seen at the house of Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi on the night the musician was killed.

But the primary suspect in Hayashi's killing, Alex Ilagan, does not fit the description given by the witness, according to a source privy to the police investigation.

The real killer could still be at large, the source said.

Witness Reynaldo Ortillano described the suspect to police as about 5-foot-4 inches tall, between 19 and 23 years old, fair complexioned and with medium build. This description was the basis of a sketch Caloocan police had released.

But the source said that this did not describe Ilagan, 31, who was arrested on Wednesday night

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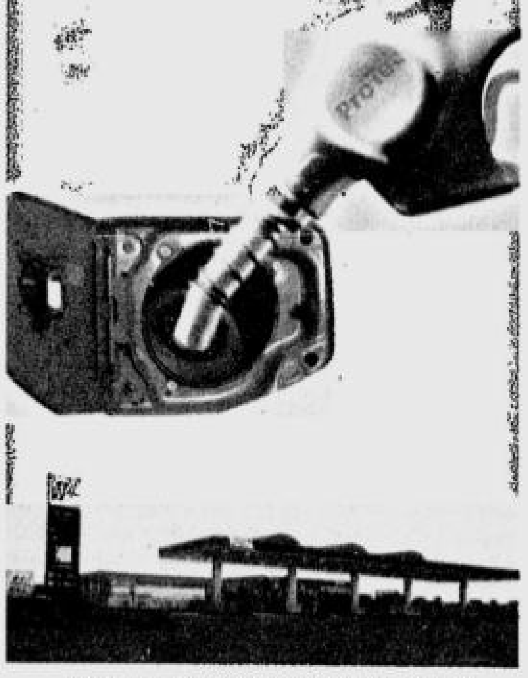

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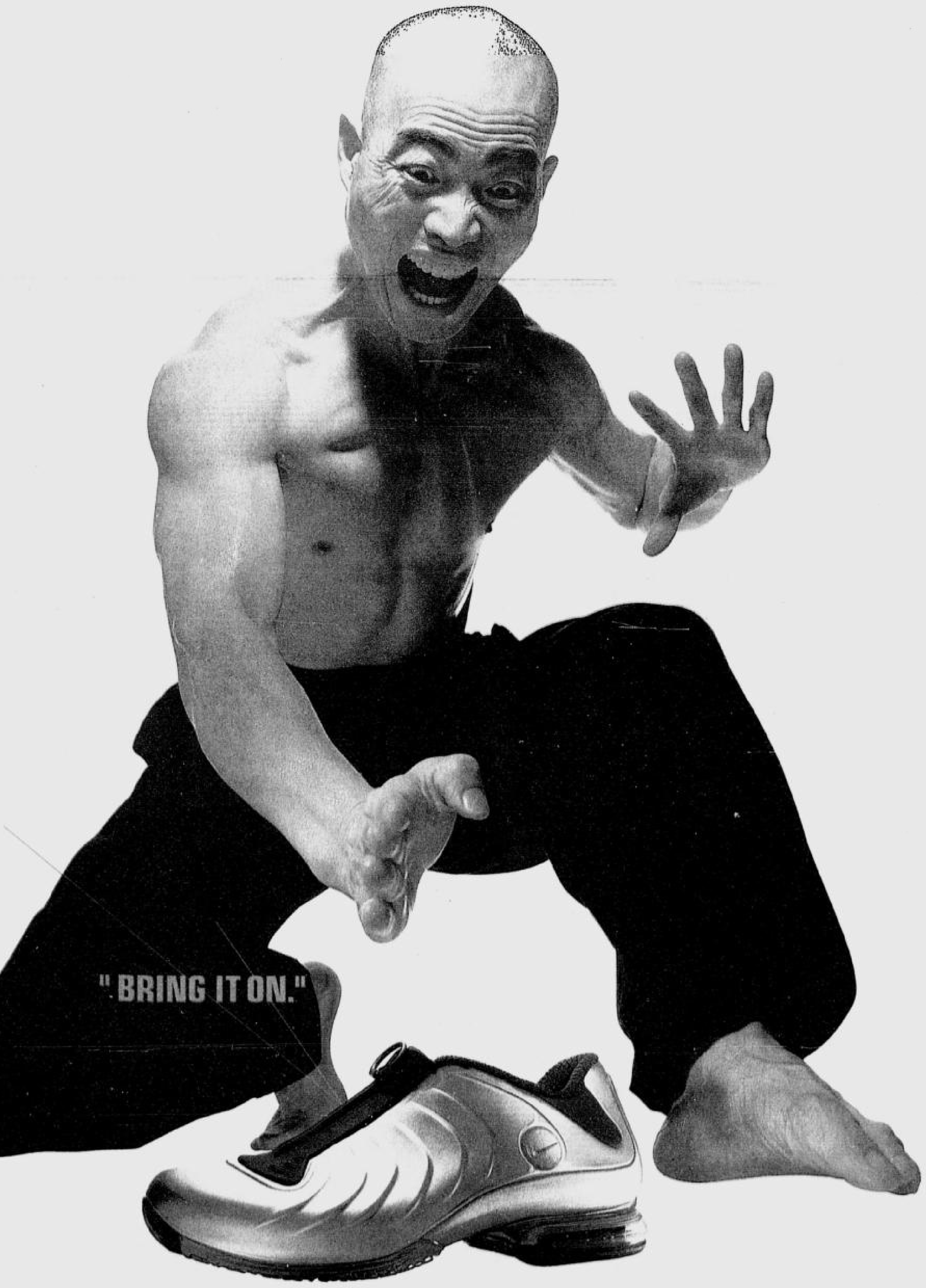

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Ping Lacson's money laundering in the US

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HAVE you ever wondered why Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson kept going to the United States when he was still the Philippine National Police (PNP) director general and chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF)?

Why was he always seen in New York during that time when he should have been attending to his duties as PNP chief and chief of the PAOCTF?

Because, my dear readers, Lacson was answering a summon from a US federal court for him to appear before it. He is facing charges of money laundering before the US court.

* * *

The National Crime Information Center's organized crime information system of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lists the court cases against Lacson. I have the numbers but will disclose them later.

You'll ask: What brought these cases about?

On two occasions, Lacson and his men were caught trying to smuggle a total of $8 million into the United States from Canada last year.

* * *

Take note, dear readers, Lacson was caught not once but twice by US customs.

Perhaps he thought his power extended over to the United States.

* * *

In one instance, Lacson was caught at the US-Canadian border allegedly trying to smuggle into the United States $7 milllion.

The money was inside a suitcase placed in the trunk of a car he and another Filipino, a certain Jerome Tang, were riding in. Lacson and Tang reportedly came from Toronto, Canada, and were bound for Buffalo, New York.

On another occasion, $1 million was found in the trunk of a car in which Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, PAOCTF's executive officer and Lacson's fair-haired boy, was riding. With Aquino at the time was Raymond Burgos, then publisher of the government-sequestered Times Journal publications and former reporter of the Inquirer.

Aquino told US customs agents the money belonged to Lacson.

Aquino and Burgos reportedly came from Nova Scotia and were apprehended at the Canadian-US border.

(Burgos last night totally denied Tulfo's allegations. He has never been to Canada—Ed.)

* * *

My sources say Lacson is forced to attend the hearings at the US federal court because if he doesn't the US government will freeze all his bank accounts.

You just wait. I'll have the details of Lacson's bank deposits in the United States—how much in what bank and the account numbers.

* * *

Where did all that huge amount come from?

Where else, but from kidnappings for ransom and drug trafficking, according to very reliable sources.

Lacson and his men at PAOCTF and before that at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) were engaged in large-scale drug trafficking and bank robbery and kidnapping for ransom.

* * *

How did Lacson and his men do it?

Former PAOCTF agents now in the custody of the government told me Lacson and his men would recruit petty hoodlums and turn them into bank robbers and kidnappers.

Didn't you notice, they easily "rescued" kidnap victims and arrested the kidnappers. Afterwards, the kidnappers would be executed, my sources said.

PAOCTF people got good publicity because of their accomplishments. In fact, the sources said, they were behind the bank robberies and kidnappings.

* * *

All the while, President Erap knew about the illegal activities of Lacson and his men at PAOCTF and the PACC.

Erap, in fact, was the Godfather in those mafia-style organizations.

* * *

Talking about Erap, his once favorite mistress, Weng, former Philippine Airlines stewardess is now living in with Charlie "Atong Ang" in Las Vegas, according to reliable sources.

Ang was Erap's man Friday when it came to "tong" collection.

* * *

Asked by a mutual friend of Ang and Erap why the former presidential errand boy stole his master's girlfriend, Ang reportedly replied:

" *Hindi pa ako nakakaganti sa kanya. Inagaw niya ang apat na* girlfriends *ko. May tatlo pa akong babawiin* (I haven't gotten back at him yet. He stole four of my girlfriends. I still have three more girls to get from him in order to make my revenge)."

Since the former president went with lowlife characters, that's what he gets.

Parking facility, not college campus, is the issue, says Mehan protector

By Jerome Aning

A CONSERVATIONIST yesterday accused Manila Mayor Lito Atienza of using the controversial building of a City College of Manila extension on the Mehan Garden to cover up the allegedly illegal construction of a parking facility also on the historic park.

Tina Testa told the Inquirer that the CCM project is just a "smokescreen to cover up the real issue involving Mehan, which is the construction of the Park N Ride terminal on the northern portion of the park."

Atienza has been insisting on a two-week deadline for negotiations that would transfer the CCM campus to an alternative site at the old Ateneo de Manila in Intramuros.

"The CCM is not the issue here since its construction hasn't begun yet," Testa said over the phone. "What we are worried about is the Park N Ride, over which the city government hasn't yet made a position."

Worse, construction of the facility has begun, even as the P48.5-million contract leasing part of Mehan to the owners of Park N Ride still has to pass the Manila city council.

One of the provisions of the contract would have allowed Park N Ride to "sublease any part of the leased premises," which means fast-food outlets and other commercial establishments could operate in the area.

The concrete parking facility is on the northern part of the Mehan Garden, just behind the Metropolitan Theater.

Construction of the second floor of the facility had already started when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources stopped the building on July 2.

The DENR charged that the Park N Ride Inc. "initiated development activities" while its application for an environmental compliance certificate was still being processed.

Testa said the demands of environmental and conservation groups, including the National Historical Institute and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, for the 24,600-square-meter Mehan Garden to remain a public park, are "legal and not just a whim."

Testa said when the city council approved the CCM construction on the south part of Mehan, it failed to take into account presidential decrees 260 and 1505 which prohibit the alteration of any site declared historical by the NHI.

The DENR also stopped the building of the campus.

The Mehan was established in 1858 as the Jardin Botanico, the first zoological and botanical garden in the city. It was renamed in 1913 after John Mehan, the American chief of sanitation and parks.

In 1934, the park was declared a historical site by the NHI's predecessor, the Historical Research and Markers Committee.

Collector shot in Quezon City

By Philip C. Tubeza

COLLECTOR Alejandro L. Diocareza, 25, did not make it back home alive after he accompanied his wife's relative to the bus stop near his home in Quezon City early Sunday night.

An unidentified gunman shot Diocareza, of 269 Liwanag St. in Balara, Quezon City, twice while he was on his way back home, said investigator PO1 Renato Hamor of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Hamor said the shooting happened at 6:40 p.m. after Diocareza brought his wife's relative, Mario Mendoza, to a bus stop along Commonwealth Avenue.

But while Diocareza was walking home along Liwanag Street, the unidentified man blocked his path and pulled out a handgun of still unknown caliber.

The gunman shot him twice, hitting him in the abdomen and the nape.

Diocareza was brought to the Malvar General Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 6:55 p.m., PO1 Hamor said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 31, 2001
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28
Gospel: Mt 13:36-43

Jesus sent the crowds away and went into the house. And his disciples came to him saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed are the people of the Kingdom; the weeds are those who follow the evil one. The enemy who sows them is the devil; the harvest is the end of time and the workers are the angels.

Just as the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom all that is scandalous and all who do evil. And these will be thrown in the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. If you have ears, then hear."

Commentary

The house that Jesus enters along with his disciples stands for the new house of Israel, the Church. According to Jewish tradition it is a place of learning. Just as Jesus himself needed to be in the house of the Father to learn as a human person the art of intimacy with God, so he invites the disciples into his house to explain the mysteries of the kingdom. Matthew presents here an important aspect of the church that is often overlooked: it is a place of learning. It is the house where the Son of God meets with his brothers and sisters in order to teach them the new way of being family and a new intimacy with God.

Father, we thank you for having called us into the intimacy of your house. Grant that we may grow in wisdom as your beloved children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy— Criminal conspiracy must always be founded on facts, not on mere inferences, conjectures and presumptions, thus it must be proven just like any other crime accusation, that is, independently and beyond reasonable doubt. The presence of the element of conspiracy among the accused can be proven by their conduct before, during, and after the commission of the crime showing that they acted in unison with each other, evincing a common purpose or design. In other words, the accused must participate, even by a single over act, in the perpetration of the crime. It is sufficient that at the time of the aggression, all of them, acted in concert, each doing his part to fulfill their common design to kill the victim. Evidence of intentional participation is imperative. Mere presence at the scene of the crime at the time of its commission, without more, is not, by itself, sufficient to establish conspiracy. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, People v. Absalon, G.R. No. 137750, January 25, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

6-month-old boy pinned to death by folding bed

By Philip C. Tubeza

RYAN G. Biscocho, 6 months old, did not wake up from his sleep Sunday morning. A folding bed fell on him in his home in Quezon City.

The baby was already dead when house help Joylet Galang found him around noon at No. 1 Area 2, Luzon Avenue in Balara, Quezon City, said investigator PO1 Romel Merino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Blood was oozing from the baby's nose when Galang checked to see if he was still alive, Merino added.

The baby's parents, Ruel and Ruchie, earlier said they wanted Galang charged in court for the death of the child. But the father later said on television that the baby could not be brought back to life no matter what he and his wife did to punish the maid.

The investigator said Ruel and Ruchie went out around 10 a.m. Galang said she left the baby sleeping in a second floor bedroom.

Unfortunately, she left the baby near the folded folding bed.

When she went back upstairs around 12:30 p.m. to check if the baby was awake, Galang was shocked to see that the folding bed had fallen over the child.

The baby was already "very still" and blood was oozing from his nose, she said.

Galang contacted Ruchie, who came home and rushed her son to the New Era Hospital, where the baby was declared dead on arrival.

Bank of PI Sta. Mesa robbed

By Jerome Aning

EIGHT armed men robbed a Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Sta. Mesa, Manila of P400,000 shortly before noon yesterday.

Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., Western Police District director, said they acted as if they were bank customers before announcing the robbery around 11:45 a.m. at the BPI branch at the corner of Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Sociego Street.

Investigators said one of the men entered the bank first and then left after a few minutes. At the entrance, he was met by three other men, who then took the .38-caliber service gun of security guard Rolando de la Cruz.

The suspects then took out M-16 Armalite rifles and .45-caliber pistols and pointed them at the customers, employees and even the laborers who were painting and renovating the bank's façade.

The robbery lasted less than five minutes, investigators said.

The four men, as well as three others who stood as lookouts during the quick heist, escaped on board a black Toyota Revo (WHG-895) driven by the eighth suspect.

The Revo was found empty on nearby Benito Street, between Piña and Mangga avenues, police said. Policemen later learned that the robbers commandeered a tricycle and alighted on Santo Street, where they took a taxi.

Pasinos of the WPD later said one of the suspects has been tentatively identified as Vicente Lugnasin, based on descriptions provided by the workers.

₱6M shabu seized from Binondo man

By Alcuin Papa

SHABU worth about P6 million was confiscated from Chinese Li Zhehong whom narcotics agents arrested on Saturday in Valenzuela, Metro Manila.

PNP Narcotics Group head Chief Supt. Reynor Gonzales said Li, 31, married, jobless and a resident of 137 Carmen Planas Street in Binondo, Manila, had been under surveillance for weeks prior to his arrest.

Li allegedly supplied huge volumes of the illegal substance to dealers in the area.

Last week, the Nargroup set up a buy-bust operation and sent a narcotics agent to pose as a buyer and make contact with Li.

Late last week, Li gave the narcotics agent a small plastic sachet of shabu weighing about one gram as sample, in Sta. Cruz, Manila. After receiving the sample, Li and the agent agreed on a bigger deal.

About 5 p.m. on Saturday, Li was immediately arrested after he turned over three kilos of shabu to the same narcotics agent in exchange for P1.5 million at the Hiyas Subdivision in Valenzuela City.

Gonzales said they are still trying to determine if the suspect is part of a drug syndicate.

The foreigner is now detained at the Narcotics Group headquarters in Camp Crame. He is facing charges of violation of Republic Act No. 6425, also known as the Dangerous Drugs Act.

3 killed in 3 places

By Christian V. Esguerra

A BUSINESSMAN, a fire volunteer, and a seaman were killed in Caloocan, Valenzuela, and Navotas on Sunday.

Seaman Rogelio Tupaz, 43, was clubbed to death by Roberto Cernudo, said to be his relative, after Tupaz confronted him for not properly installing a kitchen sink in their house at Azicate Homes, Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela, police said.

Tupaz and Cernudo were having a drink when, around 1 a.m., Tupaz brought up the matter of the defective sink. Cernudo fumed and allegedly clubbed him in the face repeatedly, investigation showed.

Tupaz died before he could reach the Valenzuela General Hospital.

In Navotas, fire volunteer Francisco Auditon, 29, of Simon de Jesus Street, was going to buy gin at a store about 2 p.m. when Jerry Artesuela, 29, and Arnold Augusto, 28, who were drinking beer at the store, stabbed him for no apparent reason, police said.

About 10 p.m. in Caloocan, businessman Alvaro Tamayo, 26, was stabbed dead by brothers Carlito and Francisco Dalag Jr. at the Dueñas Compound on Taurus Street at the Maria Luisa Subdivision, said PO3 Leonilo Padulaga.

Tamayo, who suffered several stab wounds in the body, had been joking with the suspects, police said.

Masked men ambush ex-con

By Jerome Aning

AN ex-convict was ambushed and shot dead by two masked men shortly after he left a videoke bar in Sampaloc, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Ruben Burgos, 52, married and a resident of 25-E Dela Paz St., in San Roque, Marikina City, was shot as he was about to board a jeepney along España Street around 3:30 a.m.

SPO3 William Gondranios of the Western Police District homicide section said Burgos has just left the Star-M KTV at the corner of España and Maceda Street. He was crossing España to get a jeepney ride to Quezon City when he was waylaid.

The two suspects were on board a green scooter and were wearing black bonnet masks. Witnesses told investigators the man in the back of the scooter shot Burgos repeatedly. Police recovered four empty shells at the shooting scene. Burgos was identified through a driver's license found in a pocket of his pants.

Cop guns down 2 rob suspects

By Christian V. Esguerra

A POLICE officer on Sunday shot dead two of four suspected robbers during a shootout at a party in Valenzuela City.

PO3 Michael Montallana, 34, shot dead Joselito Pineda, 32, and Perpetua de los Santos, 27, in a house in Centro in Barangay Lawang Bato, Valenzuela about 10:30 p.m. Sunday, police said.

Pineda, De los Santos, and two other unidentified men were said to have been under police surveillance for allegedly robbing several Indian businessmen in Valenzuela.

Last Sunday, Montallana pretended to be a guest at the party and had drinks with the suspected robbers, investigators said.

Witness Jocelyn Payapano told police that De los Santos was enraged when Montallana tried to check the contents of his bag.

Pineda intervened and engaged the policeman in a scuffle, police said.

Witnesses told police that De los Santos drew a .45 pistol and fired at Montallana, but missed.

The other suspects, police said, went after Montallana, with one of them clubbing the policeman in the head.

Police said De los Santos again aimed at Montallana, who was quicker to the draw and shot him in the neck with his .9mm service firearm.

Pineda took the gun from De los Santos and tried to shoot Montallana, who managed to shoot Pineda in the head and abdomen, police said.

Cabbie stabbed dead in LP

By Nelson F. Flores

A TAXI driver was killed while three other men were injured in stabbing incidents in southern Metro Manila late Sunday and early yesterday morning.

Killed was Efren Aranico, 33, of 169 Block 9 Pulo, Talon 4, Las Piñas City. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Las Piñas Medical Center due to a stab wound in the chest.

Injured were Mario Sobremonde, 47; Adonis Villafuerte, 39; and Reynaldo Almojin, 35. They all sustained stab wounds in the chest but were reported to be in stable condition in different hospitals in southern Metro Manila, police said.

All the assailants escaped and are now the subject of a police manhunt.

SPO1 Roberto Alipalo, Las Piñas City police homicide investigator, said Aranico was on his way home when a neighbor, a known toughie identified only as Boyet, attacked him at about 9 p.m. last Sunday. He said Aranico and Boyet had an old grudge.

Boyet escaped, Alipalo said.

Two hours later, Sobremonde was stabbed near his house at Zone 3 Signal Village, Taguig, by his neighbor who was identified as Valentino Cencil.

PO2 Ehron Balaunt of the Taguig police said Cencil stabbed Sobremonde for still unknown reasons.

Three unidentified men stabbed Villafuerte in Muntinlupa City about 11:30 p.m.

PO2 Felix Paor of the Muntinlupa City police said Villafuerte was waiting for his cousin at a tricycle terminal in Upside Alabang when an unidentified man attacked him. The victim is still undergoing treatment at the Medical Center Muntinlupa.

More than 30 minutes later, an unidentified man stabbed Almojin in Makati City.

PO3 Allan Esquillo of the Makati police said Almojin was walking along Tripa de Gallina in Barangay San Isidro when he was attacked for still unknown reasons.

He said the victim, who was brought to the Makati Medical Center, refused to file any complaint.

Hayashi killer could still be free, cops say

(From page A19)

for Hayashi's murder.

Ilagan, the source said, looks at least eight years older than the man in the sketch. Ilagan is also six inches taller and has a heavier build than the man Ortillano described.

Hayashi was slain in his two-bedroom bungalow in Caloocan on July 22.

Ortillano had told police he saw a young man knocking at Hayashi's door on the night of the killing. He later described the young man to investigators after Hayashi was found dead in the morning two Mondays ago.

When Ilagan was presented to reporters last Wednesday, Ortillano also pointed to him as the man he had seen on the night of Hayashi's killing.

But Supt. Benjardi Mantele, chief of the Caloocan police, said he and his men are convinced that Ilagan was involved in Hayashi's killing.

"All (pieces of) evidence point to him," Mantele said.

He said that a background check on Ilagan showed that he had befriended gays and lured them into financing his whims.

Ilagan allegedly has a history of beating up his gay lovers if they failed to give in to his financial demands.

Police said Ilagan phoned Hayashi twice demanding money before the harpist was killed. Hayashi reportedly refused to take the calls knowing that Ilagan would only ask for money.

The source also questioned the actions of Antonio Clet, Hayashi's aide for 13 years, after he found the musician's yard in disarray in the morning of July 23. Clet had said this was unusual for the musician.

The source pointed out that instead of checking on Hayashi immediately, Clet had sought the help of village watchers before entering the house of the harpist for fear that he might leave his fingerprints there.

Police said they could not speculate on Clet's possible involvement in the killing.

"For the meantime, the case has been solved but is not yet closed," Mantele said.

But he said police would still determine if Clet had a hand in Hayashi's killing.

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Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	DUNGEON & DRAGONS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	RD DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK III
3	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
A	TEASER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RFD DIARIES
2	TEASER
3	JURASSIC PARK III
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	BAGANSYA
5	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III
8 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
9 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RED DIARIES

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
3	BAGANSYA
4 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK III
5	RED DIARIES
6 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
7 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III
8	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
9	AMORSEKO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III
2	RED DIARIES
3	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
4	BAGANSYA
5 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK III
6	MAHAL KITA
7 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
8	PARUPARONG LIGAW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAGANSYA
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III
4	RED DIARIES
5 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK III

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	JURASSIC PARK III

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	JURASSIC PARK III

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
Lords	BAGANSYA
Jennet	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
2	JURASSIC PARK III
3	RESERVED
4	RED DIARIES

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	JURASSIC PARK III

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK III
2	RED DIARIES
3	MAHAL KITA...
4	BAGANSYA
5	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	BAGANSYA
3	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RED DIARIES

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
3	JURASSIC PARK III

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	
3	RED DIARIES
4	JURASSIC PARK III

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RED DIARIES
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SWORDFISH
2 (DTS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK III
4	RED DIARIES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	RED DIARIES
2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK III
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	SWORD FISH
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK III
2	UNANG TIBOK
3	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
4 (DTS)	RED DIARIES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK III
2	RED DIARIES
3 (DTS)	SWORDFISH
4	DRIVEN
5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	AMORSEKO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3	COMMAND AND CONQUER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RED DIARIES
2 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK III

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	JURASSIC PARK III

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK III
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MAHAL KITA
2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	DRIVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	JURASSIC PARK III
2	RED DIARIES
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	JURASSIC PARK III

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2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	SWORDFISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	JURASSIC PARK-3
7	TOMCATS
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	DRIVEN
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

ERMITA
536-7009 TO 12

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	SWORDFISH
7	JURASSIC PARK-3

IMUS
(046) 471-8180

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	DRIVEN
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	JURASSIC PARK-3
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS

NOVALICHES
938-2243

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	ROMEO MUST.../PROOF OF...
4	SWORD FISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	JURASSIC PARK-3
8	DR. DO LITTLE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	JURASSIC PARK-3
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	ATLANTA

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST

ILOILO

SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA

THX DOLBY DOLBY STEREO dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAGANSYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT/EYES WHITE SHOOT
ODEON	JURASSIC PARK 3
ODEON-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
ROBEN	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-1	UNANG TIBOK
TANDEM-2	AMORSEKO
TIMES	EXIT WOUNDS/MEXICAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RED DIARIES
QUEZON-1	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-2	SWORDFISH

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MAHAL KITA KAHIT
CINEMA-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-3	BAGANSYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	DRIVEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	TOM CATS
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-4	JURASSIC PARK III
CINEMA-5	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-6	DR DOLITTLE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	JULIETA
CINEMA-2	NANANABIK
CINEMA-4	SCARED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
CINEMA-4	ISA LAMANG ANG DAPAT MAHALIN

'Millionaire' player guns for top prize

AMELITA Lopez-Forbes won P300,000 in last night's edition of the leading game show on TV, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

At 8:30 tonight on IBC-13, Forbes will return to the show to shoot for the grand prize of P2 million.

If she makes it, this university professor from Quezon City will be the first contestant to win the top prize in the Philippine version of the world-famous show.

Hosted by Christopher de Leon, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is a Viva-TV presentation aired on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Those who wish to join the contest can simply dial the premium number 1-908-1000-000 on PLDT or Smart phones.

The other...

(From page A22)

that kindness uncovered is even more precious than kindness that is readily available.

Dolly: How's your love life?

Korina: I've been unattached for two years though I'm seeing someone right now. Everything is still under negotiation (chuckles).

D: Any guy would be intimidated by you. Doesn't that become a hindrance to your relationships?

K: When I'm deeply in love, I'm submissive. *Sobra akong maalaga, mapagsilbi.* Geisha girl! I guess all women are masochists to a certain extent. When you love someone you better be prepared to take all the pain that comes with it. Believe it or not, with my first boyfriend I hardly even talked. *Nakaupo lang ako sa isang tabi*, behave *na* behave.

D: A strong woman like you doesn't seem to be the type who would cry over a man. How do you handle break-ups?
K: I cry over a man but not in front of him. When a relationship ends, I try to put myself together and see what I learned from it. Most of my relationships last for years. The last one I had went on for about six years. Even when I don't have a boyfriend, I'm not the kind of woman who would date different men at the same time in search of Mr. Right.

When I meet a guy I instinctively know if he's my type or not. *Hindi ako yung tipo na magpapaligaw at hahayaan ko lang silang magregalo at paaasahin ko lang pala sa wala.* I don't like leading on people. It's wrong to deliberately hurt people.

(To be concluded)

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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Action - Adventure - Suspense

Starring:
Sam Neill
William H. Macy
Tea Leoni
Allessandro Nivola
Trevor Morgan
Michael Jeter

July 31 - Tuesday

5:50 PM - Jurassic Park III
8:00 PM - Jurassic Park III
10:10 PM - Jurassic Park III

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Winning isn't everything

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR the first time in his stellar career, **Sylvester Stallone** doesn't play the main protagonist on the big screen. In his latest film, "Driven," Stallone acknowledges the onus of the years and settles for "inspiring" the movie's real lead character, played by young acting comer **Kip Pardue**.

In "Driven," a car racing impressario (**Burt Reynolds**) is so determined to win a championship series of races that he combines Pardue's prodigious potential with the experience of a fallen champion (Stallone).

Never mind that he has to kick out Pardue's partner, or that he has to practically shame the jobless Stallone into accepting this last chance at (reflected) glory. To Reynolds, winning is the only option, no matter who gets hurt.

When Stallone returns to the circuit after many years, he finds himself caught in the middle of a number of bitter conflicts: Pardue falls in love wtih the former girlfriend of the racing champion; Pardue's wheeler-dealer brother resents Stallone's growing influence on the young comer; Stallone's former girlfriend has married the racing partner he has just replaced and resents him like heck, etc.

After a while, however, all of these teapot tempests feel like they've been artificially heaped on the movie's thin material, to give it greater weight. But the ploy doesn't work, and only messes up the storytelling.

What does make the movie visually exciting is its coverage of the races themselves—specifically, the terrible crashes that have become such a tragic part of international racing competitions.

The crashes in this film have been very creatively photographed from unusual angles, and these already striking shots have been made even more remarkable by some digital effects that sometimes give the movie a 3-D feel.

But this unusual visualization of racing car crashes brings to the fore a key issue related to car races and car-racing movies like this one: everyone professes to be shocked when a car careens, crashes and explodes in mid-air, but it's also a secret, guilty thrill that partly explains why car races are such a popular attraction.

The performances in "Driven" are roundly upstaged by these visual thrills and chills, despite Stallone's best efforts to give his character some bitter, rueful emotional shadings.

In terms of plotting, there is a gripping highlight when a racer's car crashes into a pond, and the driver starts to drown. Pardue, the German champion and Stallone all quit the race to save the injured driver, and the tension rises further because the pond is laced with high-octane gasoline that could explode in flames any second.

This scene has an uplifting effect because it shows that even hard-nosed drivers hell-bent for glory can forget about competition to save one human life. There's hope for us, after all.

But the scene is positioned too far away from the film's finale to lift the movie's ending to its proper level. When the film does end, it's at an indeterminate level, despite the regulation highlight of the racing series' victory celebration.

Mikee's starrers

VIVA Cinema's star of the month for August is **Mikee Cojuangco**. Each Sunday at 8 p.m., one of her films will be shown, starting with "Forever" on Aug. 5. In the movie, Mikee is engaged to be married, but falls in love with an other man, played by **Aga Muhlach**.

"Nag-iisang Ikaw," showing on Aug. 12, costars Mikee with **Albert Martinez**, who plays her domineering boyfriend.

"Manalo, Matalo, Mahal Kita," to be aired on Aug. 19, has Mikee playing a lotto vendor. **Cesar Montano** costars.

Finally, "Dahil Ba sa Kanya" on Aug. 26 reunites Mikee with Aga. Mikee is initially paired with **Onemig Bondoc** and Aga is supposed to be romantically involved with **Candy Pangilinan**, but they soon exchange partners.

Cinema One

CINEMA One on SkyCable launches a barrage of exclusive entertainment specials in August.

It's a brand-new blockbuster every Sunday night with "Sunday Cine Premiere," 8:30 p.m.

Phillip Salvador stamps his mark on Monday drama night on "Cine Tonight," 8 p.m. Four of Salvador's dramatic starrers will be shown—"Hayop sa Hayop," "Cain at Abel," "In This Corner" and "Karnal."

"Thursday Fantasy" lights up with master of fantasy **Peque Gallaga** and his celebrated works.

King of stunts **Lito Lapid** rocks "Friday Action."

Starting Aug. 20, Cinema One will also air a **Jay Ilagan** matinee retrospective, plus all new titles on the Tagalog adult cinema block, "Blue Light Special."

The other side of Korina

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MOST people shudder when they hear the name **Korina Sanchez.** As we say in Filipino, "siya ay babaing walang takot."

Many "horror stories" have been circulating about her and I must admit that for quite some time I was inclined to believe them. One encounter with Korina totally changed my perception of her.

Now I know that people who can't stand her don't really understand her.

A few years back, Korina reacted to an item I wrote in this column because she felt alluded to. I was half-flattered and half-alarmed by her attention. She even wrote me a letter to correct my misconception.

After that incident, I was apprehensive to greet her when we were both contestants in "Pera o Bayong" on "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan." What emboldened me to approach her was **Pops Fernandez**'s assurance that Korina is really a nice person once you get to know her.

True enough, Korina was warm and pleasant when I said hi. We cleared up the issue and she even said, "Kalimutan na natin 'yon (Let's forget about it)." Even when we both didn't win in "Pera o Bayong," her forgiveness was already a prize.

I never thought Korina and I would become friends who would compare notes about men, talk endlessly about love and even share beauty and fitness tips. But that's exactly what happened when I invited her to join me and my friend for lunch. I wanted to surprise my friend on his birthday since he's an avid listener of Korina's radio program.

Much to my surprise, she showed up. As if that were not enough, she even let her guard down and made my friend and me see the side of her that's not for public consumption.

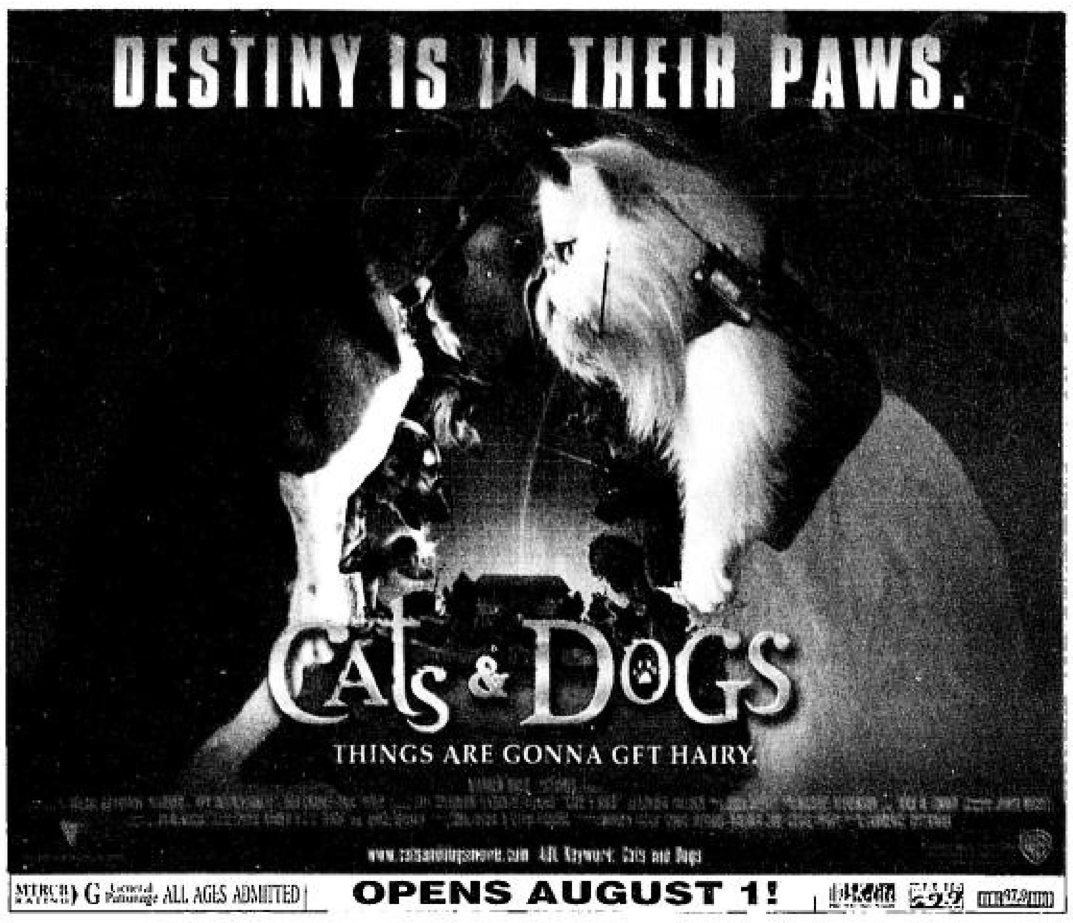
When asked about her temper, Korina replied with nonchalance. "I have my good days and my bad days. I know I can act like a witch sometimes but that passes. Alter ego *ko lang yon.*"

I would like to let you in on some of the things we talked about over lunch. Of course, we also discussed politics, show biz and controversies she has gotten enmeshed in, as well as some juicy off-the-record stories, but these are the stuff you hear on her radio program already.

Instead, allow me to share with you Korina's random thoughts about love, men, etc.

I have to thank Korina, my newfound friend, for teaching me

THE OTHER/A21



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OPENS TOMORROW
Art Film

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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
Why do women find this man so irressistable?
THE TAO OF STEVE

Dex (Donal Logue) is a lovable kindergarten teacher who has extraordinary success with women, and a sexual appetite to match. Women go crazy for him, and men admire his finely-tuned romantic philosophy. The only woman who is not wooed by his charms is Syd (Greer Goodman), an old college friend. THE TAO OF STEVE is a light and spunky romantic comedy directed by Jenniphr Goodman.The film, and Logue's role in it, got the Outstanding Performance Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2000.

"ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE FILMS AT SUNDANCE & ONE OF THE MOST DISARMING ROMANTIC COMEDIES I'VE SEEN IN YEARS."
-Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE

"HILARIOUS & HEARTFELT! DONAL LOGUE'S KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE SHOULD MAKE HIM A STAR."
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"A WONDERFULLY WITTY ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT HAS BOTH CRITICS & AUDIENCES RAVING!"
-JonathanForeman, NEW YORK POST

Why do women find this man so irresistable?
THE TAO OF STEVE

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SM NORTH 3:00 PM SM FAIRVIEW 5:00 PM SM MEGA - 7:00 PM
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GOTESCO COMMONWEALTH 3:30 PM

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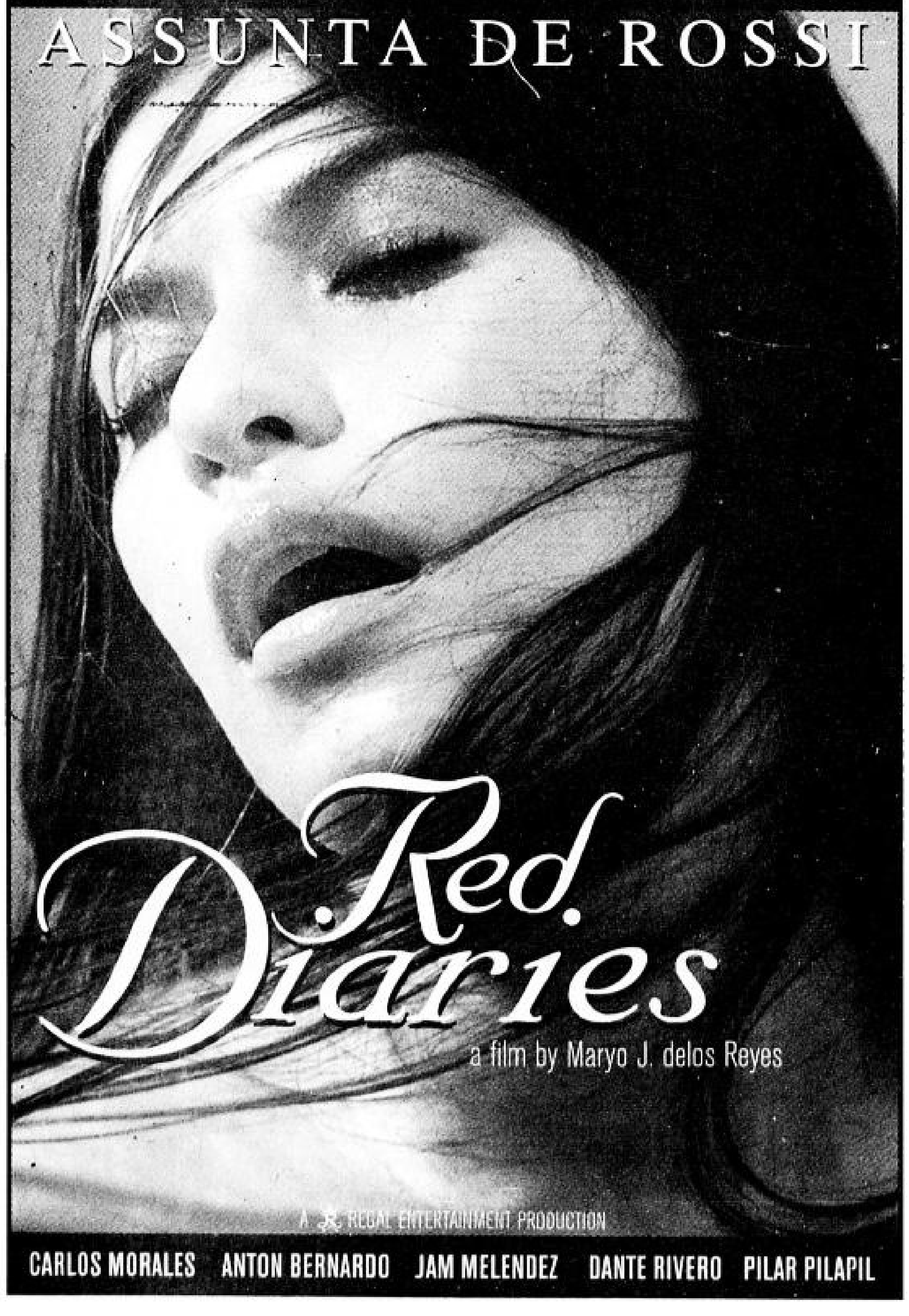
ASSUNTA BARES ALL HER SECRET



POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JURASSIC PARK III - P13 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20	ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P13 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	JURASSIC PARK III - P13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
JURASSIC PARK III - P13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40	SWORDFISH - R18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DR. DOLITTLE 2 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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TOMORROW, KISS FEAR GOODBYE

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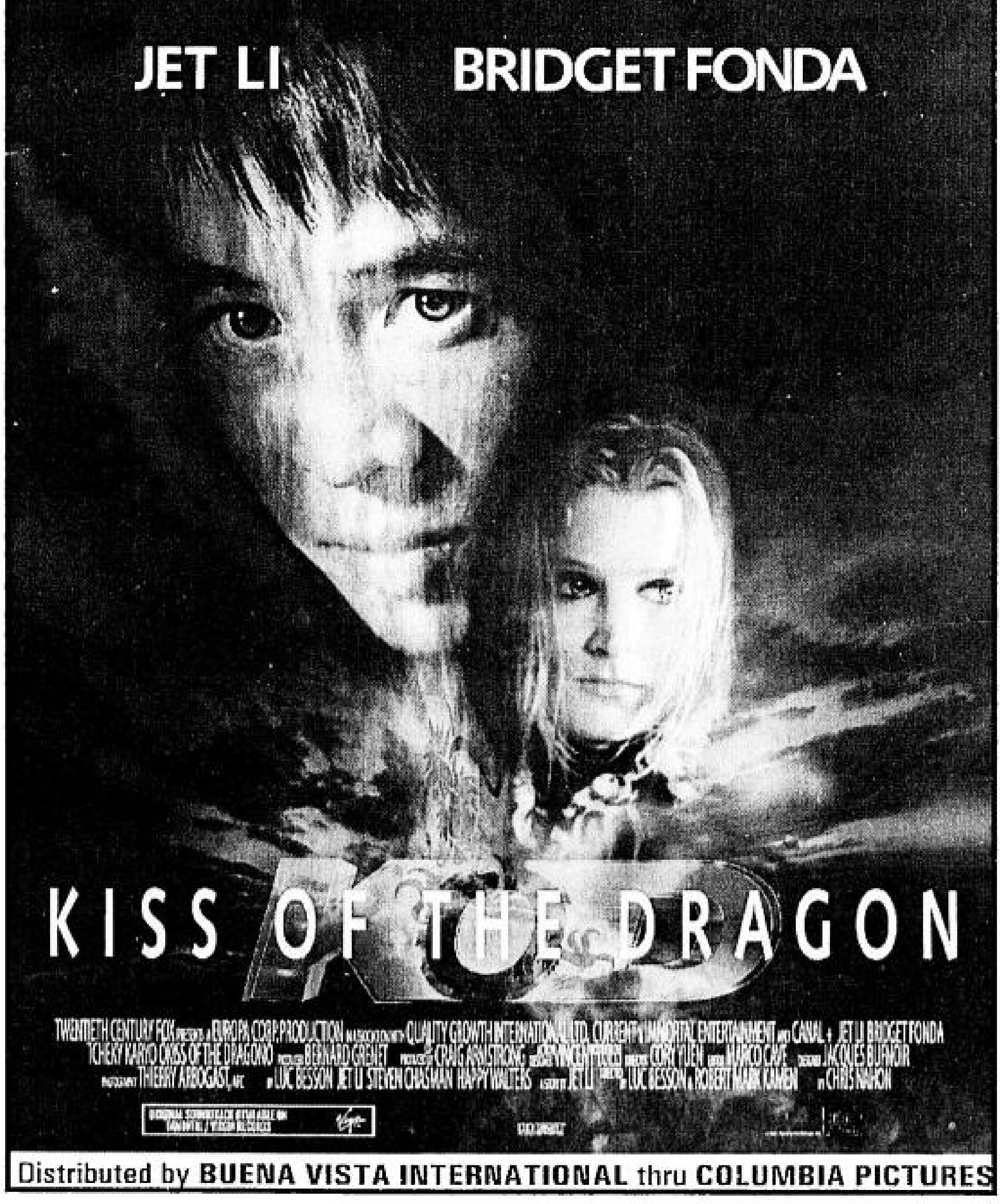

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BUSINESS

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Peso gains as 91-day T-bill rate rises

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT'S benchmark borrowing rate rose by 28 basis points to 9.215 percent while the peso recovered to 53.37 to a dollar on a last-minute intervention by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Yields of the six-month and one-year treasury bills would have risen by 81 points and 83 points respectively but the auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury decided to reject all bids, leaving the 182- and 364-day yields unchanged at 10.861 percent and 11.988 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the fixed-income market naturally reacted to the decision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise the reserve requirement on commercial banks by two percentage points to 18 percent.

Commercial lenders were expected to comply with the new policy starting Aug.3, a week after the BSP circular's effectivity because of a one-week lag in the computation of reserves.

The BSP expects to mop up P27.4 billion in excess money from the system that otherwise may lead to a higher inflation and continue to add pressure on the peso.

"The market needs liquidity at this time and given our healthy cash position, we do not see the need to aggravate the situation," Edeza said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government has enough room to reduce its local borrowings after it had sealed fresh foreign loans at relatively low interest rates.

Camacho was referring to a new $200-million borrowing through a dollar-denominated, one-year treasury bills with a yield ranging from two to 2.3 percentage points over the six-month London interbank offered rate.

"We have been getting cheap foreign borrowings and this is why we can reduce domestic borrowings," the finance chief said.

The foreign loans being worked out by the government were meant to ease the pressure on the peso. However, the local currency slid to a low of 53.69 to $1 yesterday in late afternoon trade.

The peso was able to close eight centavos better than last Friday's close after the central bank sold as much as $20 million in the spot market where transactions reached $106 million.

Traders said there was legitimate demand for dollars yesterday mostly from oil companies to pay for their month-end importations.

Edeza said the tight liquidity in the market should be temporary. "The market must go back to normal after this week," he said. The national treasurer said the offers for the 91-day treasury bills were reasonable so the auction committee made a full award of P1 billion.

Edeza again denied that by accepting higher bids yesterday, he was giving in to the wishes the finance department to align the government's benchmark borrowing rate with the central bank's 9-percent borrowing rate.

Camacho had promised the BSP that the finance department would let treasury bill rates go up slightly to help lure back funds to the treasury bill market from the foreign exchange market and ease the speculation against the peso.

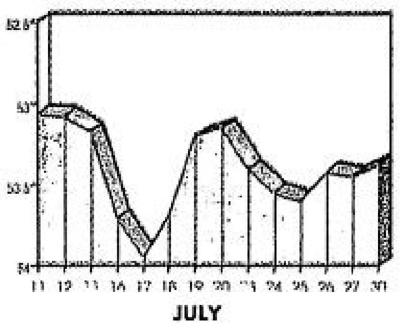
Treasury bill yields track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while the 91-day benchmark is used by banks in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills and another P3 billion from the sale of treasury bonds.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P53.37 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
July 30, 2001

¥124.66 = $1

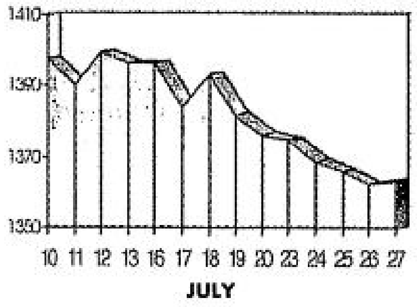
The US dollar was trading at 124.66 as of 5 p.m., July 30, 2001

GOLD:$266.80/267.30

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 30, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday as investors remained bearish on the country's political and economic prospects, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 12.39 points, or 0.9 percent, at 1350.95, after gaining 0.76 points Friday. Turnover thinned to P322.9 million from P434.59 million on Friday.

"I think, technically, the index is bridging the gap between the main support level of 1300 points and its current level," said Equitable PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap.

Yap said the absence of positive fundamental factors to support the market triggered foreign selling in key blue chips.

The weak peso also contributed to the bearish mood, said Yap. *AP*

Meralco sale seen this year

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has vowed to sell the government's remaining 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. even at a much lower revenue of P4 billion from an earlier target of P5 billion to P7 billion.

Camacho said the DoF has received proposals from six groups, including the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, on how it's best to divest its remaining stake in the country's biggest electricity distributor.

The Ihap had submitted a proposal together. with ING Barings. Other proposals came from Lehman Brothers, Salomon Smith Barney, Deutsche Bank, ABN Amro and Credit Suisse First Boston.

"We will definitely sell our stake in Meralco this year. From the proposals we have received, investment banks say we could get around P4 billion," the finance chief said.

WB names new RP director

THE WORLD Bank yesterday named veteran economist Robert Vance Pulley as the new country director for the Philippines, replacing Vinay Bhargava who is returning to Washington after a five-year stint.

Pulley, a US national, was the bank's director for East Asia and the Pacific in the last three years, a bank statement said.

In 1993, Pulley was appointed the bank's first resident representative in Jamaica, where he helped set up a poverty and violence reduction fund, it said.

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BOURSE TRANSFER

Boni firms buck PSE demands

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. has rejected the demand of the Philippine Stock Exchange to immediately start the construction of the new bourse building in the Global City in preparation for the relocation of the PSE headquarters in 2004.

FBDC has likewise thumbed down the PSE's demand to turn over to the latter the deed of donation over the properties pledged by FBDC and Capital Consortium Inc. under the "Agreement for the Relocation of the Principal Headquarters and Unified Trading Floor of the PSE" dated Feb. 22, 1999.

In a letter sent last Friday to the Tan, Acut & Lopez Law offices, the PSE's legal counsel for the relocation agreement, FBDC and CCI legal counsel Estelito Mendoza said his clients were not obliged to comply with the PSE's twinfold demands because these were "premature, unreasonable and contrary to the provisions of the relocation agreement."

Mendoza said actual construction could not commence because the concerned parties have yet to finalize the development program and milestones for the PSE premises.

"While earnest efforts have been exerted to finalize the plans and specifications, the same have not been finalized. It would thus be impossible to commence construction of the PSE premises at this time," he said.

The PSE wrote to FBDC on July 23 and demanded that construction commence within 10 days from receipt of the letter.

Mendoza also noted that FDBC and CCI were not obliged to deliver to the PSE the deeds of donation covering the properties subjected to the relocation agreement, whether as security or guarantee that his clients would turn over the premises to PSE upon completion.

He noted that the transfer of ownership of the properties in favor of PSE was subject to the following conditions:

- That the PSE relocates its entire operations and headquarters to the premises; and,
- That the PSE uses the premises as its only headquarters and unified trading floor.

Also, Mendoza said the relocation agreement did not require either FBDC or CCI to donate the properties to the PSE at all. Rather, he said paragraph 3.7 of the agreement provided that "the parties agree to structure the transfer in the most cost-effective and tax-efficient manner mutually beneficial to the parties."

"A donation of the properties to the PSE can not, by any means, be considered as the most cost-effective and tax efficient manner of transferring the properties to PSE," he stressed.

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Smoking gown

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SO OUR moralistic government bends its rules for the rich, big US firm Philip Morris. That's a smoking gun right there. Yet up to now, somebody has to tell us why rules do not apply on makers of vice.

For its cigarette factory, you see, Philip Morris got from the government a terrific deal. Maybe by coincidence, the factory is located in Cavite in another real estate project of the Lopez group. You know—as in "very influential!"

But whether or not that's the reason why our government gives even investors like Philip Morris hundreds of millions of pesos in tax break, is not clear. Nothing is.

* * *

OUR government is just happy to give out incentives to investors. So be it. Still, the company, which gets the tax breaks must export at least 70 percent of its production.

Philip Morris insists on exporting only 30 percent. No problemo! The BOI simply overlooks such a stupid rule. Voila—Philip Morris gets the tax breaks just like that.

Now I don't know if Philip Morris is really in good hands. For who should grace its recent groundbreaking but the country's highest officials? Lots of photo-op, I tell you!

And so I am beginning to suspect that our beloved BOI has a compelling reason to bend its rules for Philip Morris. It seems to have the blessing from above.

* * *

IN rich countries, the government's warning on cigarette smoking is rather straightforward. "Cigarette smoking can kill you!" It aims to frighten you to quit.

Here, we try to be diplomatic about it. "Cigarette smoking is hazardous to your health." Hazardous? Come on, it's not as if smoking only gives you an awful breath!

Philip Morris is the very same company, which recently made a public apology in Europe. It concerns one of its many studies on . . . well, the virtues of cigarette smoking.

It seems the study pointed out that Philip Morris even helps the governments of the world. The governments save money, if, as a result of smoking, people die early.

* * *

IN things like social security and pension, according to the study, those governments can save a lot by killing their people with lung cancer and heart disease.

Next thing you know, they will come up with studies about gas chambers. These instruments of mass murder, to the governments, must have the same untold benefits.

Apparently, the study forgot to say anything about health costs. In rich countries, normally, the governments pay for the care of sick cigarette smokers. Very sick smokers!

Never mind that the study also did not say a word about the misery of the families of the victims. It did not say how much they curse cigarette makers.

Despite the advances in computer technology, misery is something you cannot quantify. Misery has nothing to do with dollars and cents. You know—it's not business!

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, is the very same company, the one and only Philip Morris, which, to our government, seems to be very special.

Why did the BOI give Philip Morris a special treatment? The company claims it will invest $300 million here. This is a huge amount, indeed, for giving us lung cancer.

Now you can see clearly why the BOI must give Philip Morris the tax incentives. Not only that, the BOI must bend its own rules for the US company.

The answer is, simply, the BOI wants to encourage smoking. If you get sick, no problem, the government also promises to bring down the price of medicine. *Daw*!

* * *

BUT I am still trying to figure out why, of all people, Gloriaetta herself must attend the groundbreaking ceremony of Philip Morris. Remember—she preaches clean living.

Why, she must have been even wearing a gown for the smoking event of the year. She even allowed herself to be photographed! What for? Press statements, which came from either the Palace or Philip Morris, tried to justify Gloriaetta's attendance. They said Philip Morris will help tobacco farmers.

But why can't tobacco farmers just switch to crops like broccoli and carrot? Well, the crops are said to prevent lung cancer. They do not help our government save money.

* * *

OUR beloved BOI belongs to the Department of Trade and Industry. Pending with the same DTI is a petition of cement companies for higher tariff. Importation is killing them.

But the importers already asked the court to restrain the DTI from raising the tariff. In importers, it seems, the cement industry already found some best friends.

It turns out that the industry must also contend with government contractors. They are among the biggest cement importers. In short, they are also making a killing.

The landed cost of imported—alright, "dumped"—cement comes up to P86 per bag. The imports then fetch a price of P136 to P150 per bag easily. It's all easy money.

* * *

ONE contractor in Davao, according to my info from the cement industry, imported from Indonesia something like 97,000 metric tons of cement this year so far already.

That's just one contractor! To think, the government spends hundreds of billions of pesos on construction! The contractors must be killing you, you poor taxpayer you!

Under their contracts, you see, the price of cement is naturally based on the local price. It's for good reason. The government specifies that they use local cement.

But what can stop them from cheating the government? This is a rich government, with only P145 billion in deficit this year! It is even giving away tax breaks like anything.

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3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	770,000	750,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	375,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	800,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	500,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	150,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	160,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	260,000	250,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	170,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	950,000	900,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	775,000
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,500,000	

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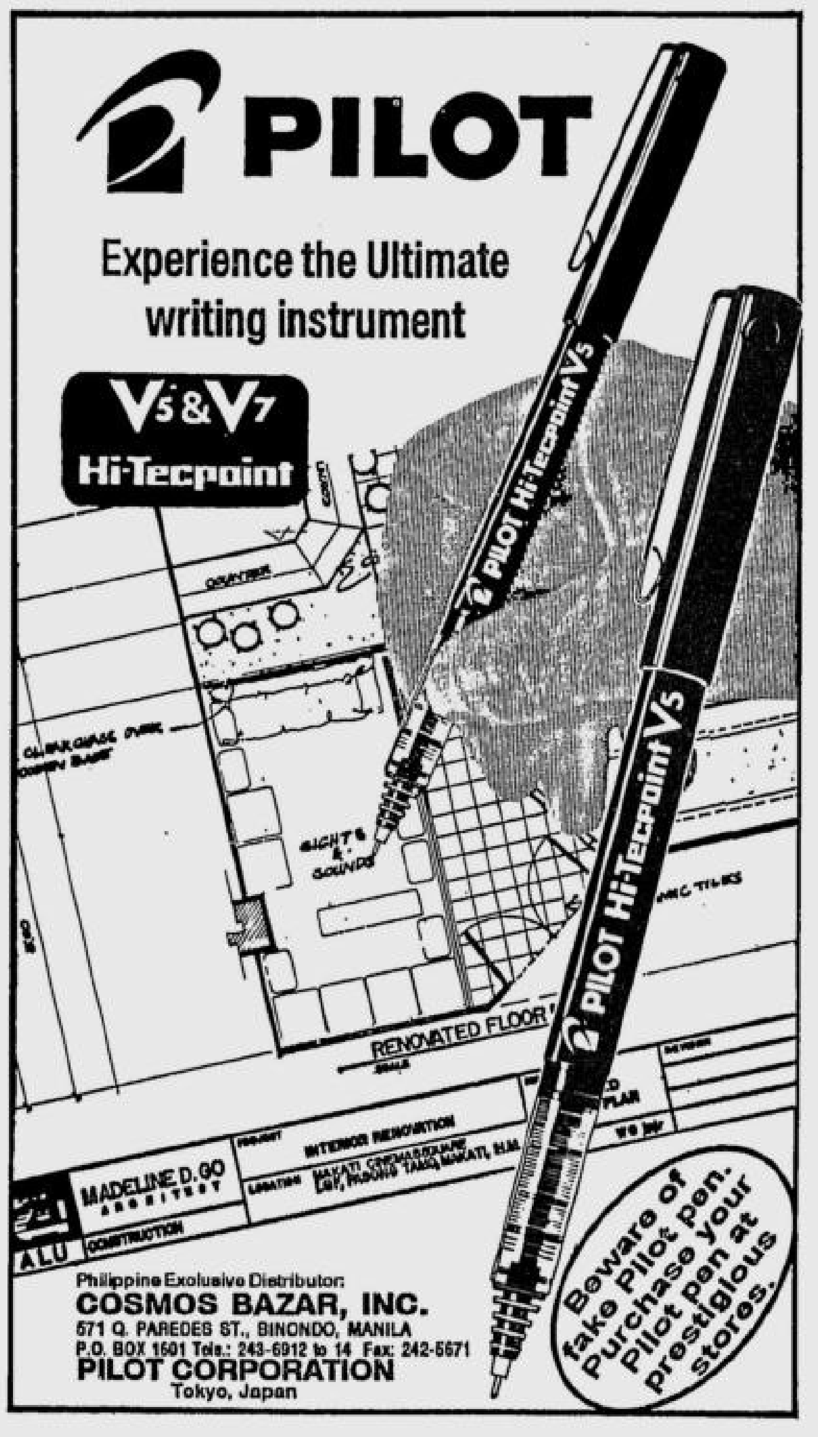

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Textile makers seek help vs smuggling

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOCAL textile makers are urging the Macapagal administration to check the unabated smuggling of garments and textiles that have steadily driven fabric makers out of business over the last few years.

The Federation of Philippine Textile Industries said while President Macapagal-Arroyo promised to cut down on the cost of doing business in the Philippines, she failed to cite her government's move to address the pernicious effect of smuggling in the country.

The FPTI said the installed capacity of spinning mills had fallen from 1.5 million spindles in 1991 to 350,000 last year, which rendered 42,000 direct employees jobless. In the garment business, there were only 3,000 manufacturers in operation last year from 12,000 in the early 1990s.

Contrary to critics' view that textile was a sunset industry, the FPTI said the domestic market remained a potent market for local textile makers considering that half of the estimated 300,000 tons of textiles used in the country annually had been gobbled up by imports most of which were brought in illegally or without paying their duties.

FPTI said technical smuggling in the industry was being done by unscrupulous garments exporters that diverted part of their imports meant for re-export to the local market.

FPTI said there was rampant smuggling in the country as seen from the deluge of cheap apparel and underwear in Divisoria, Baclaran and Tondo. It claimed that some of these goods were being brought in the guise of donations or misdeclared shipments.

The FPTI has asked the government to create an anti-smuggling commission similar to the anti-crime body formed to combat kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

Apart from smuggling, local textile makers are also facing the prospect of a more protective US market.

Governors from the major US textile-producing region earlier asked US President George Bush for protection against Asian imports, which they said were causing massive job losses and plant closures in their states.

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	750,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	260,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls Call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	400,000/445,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	-	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	780,000	800,000/890,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	165,000/170,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	275,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	160,000/Pls call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	250,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/500,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	425,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	200,000
VALLY GOLF	-	265,000
WACK WACK	8.0 M	8.5 M

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Tantiongco quits as MWSS chief regulator

AN INTERNAL dispute with his deputies has forced the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewer System's chief regulator, Rex Tantiongco, to quit his post.

"It is an irrevocable resignation. We could not do anything about it, though we knew he would be a big loss to the regulatory office," Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong told the INQUIRER.

Documents showed that Tantiongco tendered his resignation on June 19, but the MWSS board of trustees accepted it only yesterday. The board designated MWSS Deputy Administrator Efren Agustin as officer-in-charge of the MWSS Regulatory Office.

Over the past six months, Tantiongco had been at odds with two of his deputy administrators, Virgilio Ocaya and Elena Luz Alojipan, over the way he ran the MWSS Regulatory Office.

Among the issues where Tantiongco squared off with his deputy administrators were the transfer of MWSS' accounts from the Philippine National Bank to the Development Bank of the Philippines, nonrenewal of a security agency's services and allocation of about 6 percent of the concessionaires' stocks to their employees.

Tantiongco considers these as minor administrative matters. But for Ocaya and Alojipan, these are part of an internal conflict that boils down to the question of whether the MWSS Regulatory Office is following its mandate. *Christine A. Gaylican*

₱55-B yen loan list approved

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has completed a list of infrastructure projects that the Philippines will ask Tokyo to finance under Japan's 25th yen loan package.

In a statement released yesterday, Neda said the government would ask Tokyo to finance P55.3 billion worth of infrastructure projects.

The biggest in the list is the sixth phase of the arterial road links development project, which will eat up about P14.9 billion of the 25th yen loan package.

Also in the list are the irrigation component of the San Roque multipurpose project, P8.6 billion; communication and navigation surveillance, P7.6 billion; Iloilo flood control project, P5.6 billion; nationwide fishing ports development project, P1.8 billion; Bago River irrigation system rehabilitation and improvement project, P958 million; Sta. Ana regional agri-industrial regional growth center, P1.4 billion; Pag-asa flood control forecasting and warning system (P984 million); the sixth phase of the rural water supply and sanitation project, P1.5 billion; fourth phase of the rural road network development project, P1.4 billion; Cavite-Laguna project, P2 billion; second phase of the Cordillera road improvement project, P5.6 billion; and, the roll-on/roll-off ferry network project for the trans-Visayas intermodal transport network, 2.8 billion.

"The projects seek to integrate rural communities into the national infrastructure and make them thriving market economies from being mere subsistence bases through efficient movement of cargoes and passengers, consistent with the thrust to use the 25th yen loan package for basic economic infrastructure to alleviate poverty," Neda said in its statement.

Doris C. Dumlao

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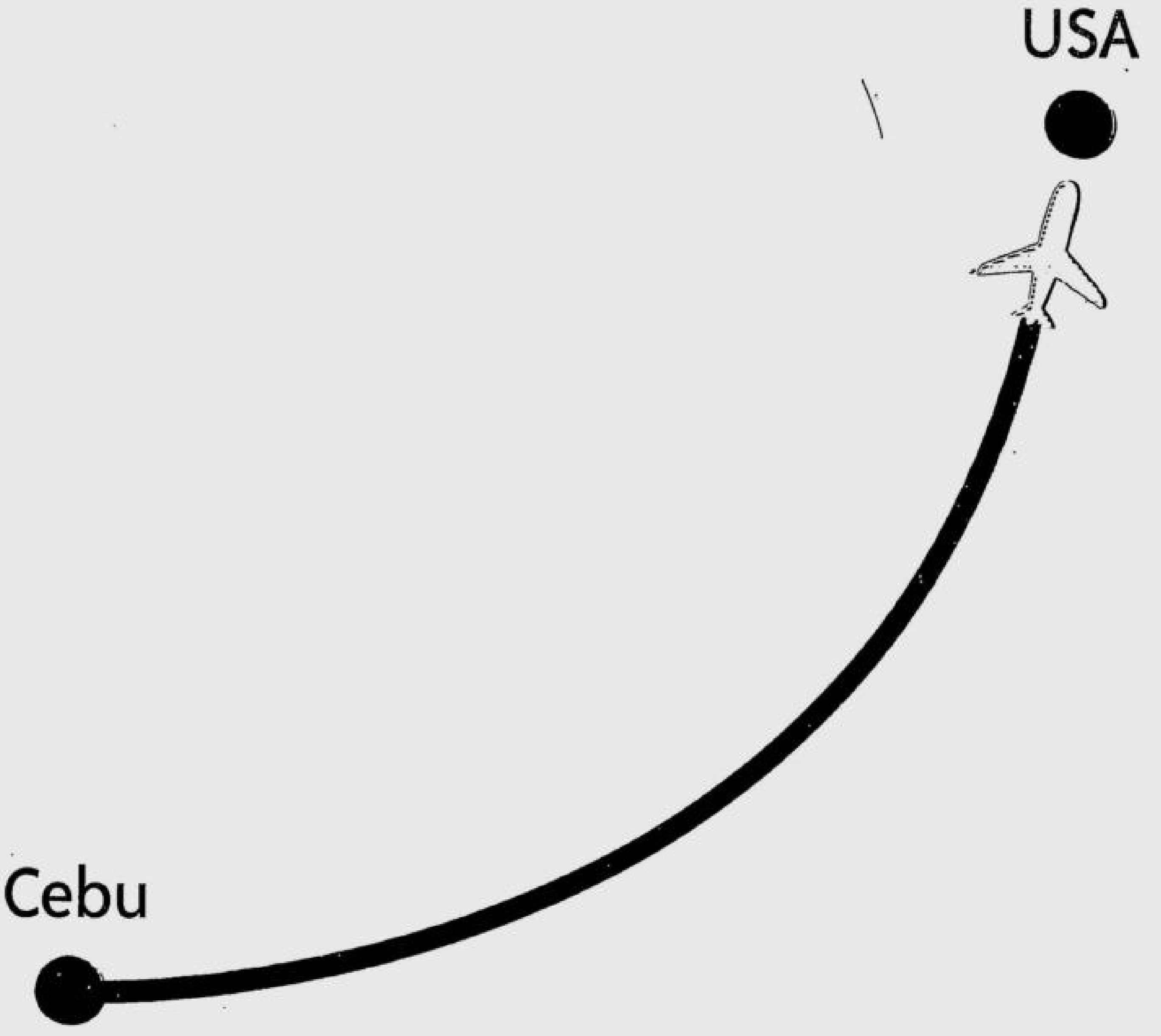

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- Passengers must be a WorldPerks member to earn the Bonus Miles.
- Travel from Cebu must be no later than August 30, 2001.
- Offer is not combinable with other WorldPerks offers.
- Tickets must be issued in the Philippines.
- Bonus Miles are applicable for paid roundtrip flights on Cebu Pacific/ Northwest connecting services to the Mainland U.S. and Hawaii.

BONGOLAN JOHNNY VILLENA

CARANDANG ROGER CARPIO

KHOE

Brokers learn the hard way that money isn't everything

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

LIBORO ROGER CARPIO

IT SEEMED so long ago, but it was really just eight years back when it was every young graduate's dream to become a stock analyst or trader.

During the boom years in the early 1990s, the stockbroker personified the young urban professional. Barely out of college, they had their own cars, paying for their own houses, partied left and right and ate in all the right, expensive places. It was not unusual at that time to hear about brokers receiving 5-, 10- and even 12-month bonuses because business was just so good. The really good ones, who were pirated left and right by foreign stockbrokerages that set up shop here, received car-and-housing packages as part of their signing bonuses.

Yes, those were the good times. The 30-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index was hitting 3,000 points and the value of trade reached an average $150 million a day, which indicated the presence of foreign investors.

Work hard, play hard

Kevin Khoe, who used to work for Sapphire Securities Inc. and Vantage Securities Corp., said it was a work-hard and play-hard kind of life. He worked long hours, sometimes up to 3 a.m. just to keep track of the demands of his customers and take stock of the latest developments abroad.

"I worked hard, but I was paid well for the work. Brokers also went to a lot of parties at that time," Khoe said.

He added that young graduates would knock on the doors of stockbrokerages because these companies usually paid three to four times more for new hires than other industries, including multinational corporations.

"We also got to travel a lot to meet with potential foreign clients. We got big bonuses and good salaries. The brokerage houses were really willing to pay big bonuses to keep their people intact," Khoe said.

Cillette Liboro, former head of research of Orion Squire Securities Inc., said there was literally money to burn during the days when the bulls ruled over the stock market.

"People then had enough set aside for savings, basic necessities and still have a lot left over for hobbies. There was just more than enough pay going around and bonuses to give out to people," Liboro said.

Invincible

"In those boom days of the stock market, many stockbrokers, especially the young ones, thought they were invincible," Joby de Belen, who used to work at Meridian Securities Inc., added.

"Everybody thought that life as a stockbroker was a bed of roses and that money just flows. People really thought being a stockbroker was 'in'," De Belen said.

Ricky Carandang, former vice president for sales of Kim Eng Securities Philippines Inc., said everyone could pass for a genius during the boom days. The economy was doing so well that all stocks eventually went up. It was the place to be if you wanted to earn money.

"A lot of young people were entering because it was glamorous. There was something mysterious about it because of the lifestyle of the people. But it was good while it lasted, especially if you were single and did not have a lot of responsibilities," Carandang added.

Reality bites

The 1997-98 Asian currency crisis changed all that. With Asian economies buckling under the weight of excessive debts and depreciating currencies, foreign investors withdrew funds from the market and left the local stock market high and dry.

From a level of 3,000 points, the Phisix plunged to just over 1,000 points. Daily turnover slid to between $50 million and $70 million, showing foreign investors were in no hurry to return although the economy had recovered somewhat.

"Although we had some big plays in 1999, it was really not the same anymore. The market was already on a continuous downtrend and the economy was really in a mess," De Belen said.

The change came drastically for stockbrokers. Just as big stockbrokerages were eager and willing to hand out bonuses and big salaries, they were just as quick to cut back salaries and remove all perks. Some even laid off people and others shut down their operations altogether.

"Lifestyles changed, you bet. This became a wake-up call to a lot of people in the industry. The wounds were so deep that up to today, many are still hurting," De Belen said.

Pay cuts, termination

Sapphire Securities' Khoe said despite the hard work he was putting in, the results were just not coming in. He had fewer trips, less bonuses; the worse was to be informed of a pay cut or even termination.

"I went through two pay cuts, the first was in 1998 and the other in 1999. I really felt poorer during the Estrada administration. The market consolidated during the Ramos years, but at least there was still some activity. When Erap came, he inherited the Asian crisis, and he did not help," Orion-Squire's Liboro said.

Gonzalo Bongolan, former head of research of PCCI Securities Inc., said the market suddenly slowed after the boom years, and brokers were still waiting for things to turn around.

"There is not much activity in the market these days, so it is not justified to have a lot of people. Many of the foreign brokerage houses have closed down because they have high overhead. They have to pay a lot of big salaries, but there is no activity or revenue to pay for the operations," Bongolan explained.

Exodus

The sorry state of the local stockbrokerage industry led to an exodus of stock analysts and traders. Some were forced to leave to look for greener pastures. Still others were relocated to other operations abroad or to other offices within the group.

Meridian Securities' De Belen left the brokerage industry at the end of 1998 to work for Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. from January 1999 to November 2000. He then moved to Bell Telecommunications Inc. as vice president for sales and marketing. He now manages about 30 people and works with other departments to ensure that Bell achieves its vision of becoming the leader in broadband communications in the Philippines.

Khoe moved from Vantage to Philequity Management Inc., where he bought local stocks for clients. From there, he moved on to become chief executive of Yehey.com, one of the Internet arms of Vantage Equities Inc.

Khoe is now responsible for building the business of Yehey.com from an Internet portal to a full-fledged online solutions company.

Carandang left the brokerage industry in early 1996 to put up his own company. He published a monthly journal on the stock market. He now works as an anchor for "Stock Market Live," a business program of the ABS-CBN News Channel.

After two pay cuts, Liboro eventually left the brokerage industry last year to head the business analysis group of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. She is now her own boss and is responsible for providing analysis for the different groups of ABS-CBN. She is also called on sometimes to appear on air as a resource person.

Bongolan, on the other hand, was tapped to head the Home Insurance Guarantee Corp. by the Macapagal administration. He ended up with the government because of his ties with former Quezon City Rep. Mike Defensor, Arroyo's choice to help push her housing program.

Better world?

For Liboro, it was a stroke of luck in a way that the brokerage industry ended up the way it did because it led her to another industry and broadened her horizons.

"The pay is better and the hours are better. I am my own boss and I head my own department. I guess it is better here. So far so good," Liboro says.

Khoe admitted that taking on the job as chief executive of Yehey.com was a challenge and it took him some time to get used to it. But now that he has gotten the hang of it, he has his mind set on building Yehey.com into one of the country's most successful Internet sites.

"Right now, I am back to the old pre-crisis days when I used to work really long hours. I like it because at least something is happening, and there is a challenge I have to overcome," Khoe said.

He added that his experience in dealing with different kinds of clients during his days as a research analyst helped him tremendously with his current job.

"My job before was to promote companies to clients, now I promote Yehey as a site. It is almost the same," he said.

De Belen says life in any corporation is generally the same, whether it is in the stockbrokerage industry or in telecommunications, where he is now.

"Both industries need individuals with leadership qualities that are complemented by competency," he said.

Bongolan has his hands full, as he is still trying to get the hang of his new job as head of HIGC.

"I am still doing the rounds of my courtesy calls and trying to immerse myself in the organization. It will take some time but I hope to do a good job here in service of the public," Bongolan said.

For his part, Carandang says he may not be making as much money as he used to, but he now has a different sense of fulfillment.

"I feel like I have a bigger contribution now to the public because of what I do. That, to me, is important," he adds.

Looking forward

These former brokers agree it will take some time before the brokerage industry can get back to the way it was. Perhaps, it never will.

De Belen said the radical change in the lifestyle of brokers should be looked at as a good thing. Those who suffered through it now realize that there are other things in life besides money.

"In a lot of ways, this is also good because people are now beginning to realize that money should not be the center of their attention. People are now beginning to humble themselves and look to better things than material wealth," De Belen said.

Congratulations to:
Negros Navigation Co., Inc.
On its 69th Anniversary
Greetings from:

METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION
Pioneer Insurance
Port Equipment Specialists, Inc.
TSUNEISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (CEBU), INC. ISO 9002
Seaboard-Eastern INSURANCE
SIGMA COATINGS
PRUDENTIAL BANK
STEVENS
STEVENS ADJUSTERS INC.
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Insurance Brokers & Risk Management Consultants
VISAYAS INDUSTRIAL & MARINE SERVICE CORPORATION
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Formerly RADAR & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.

CRAFTING A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

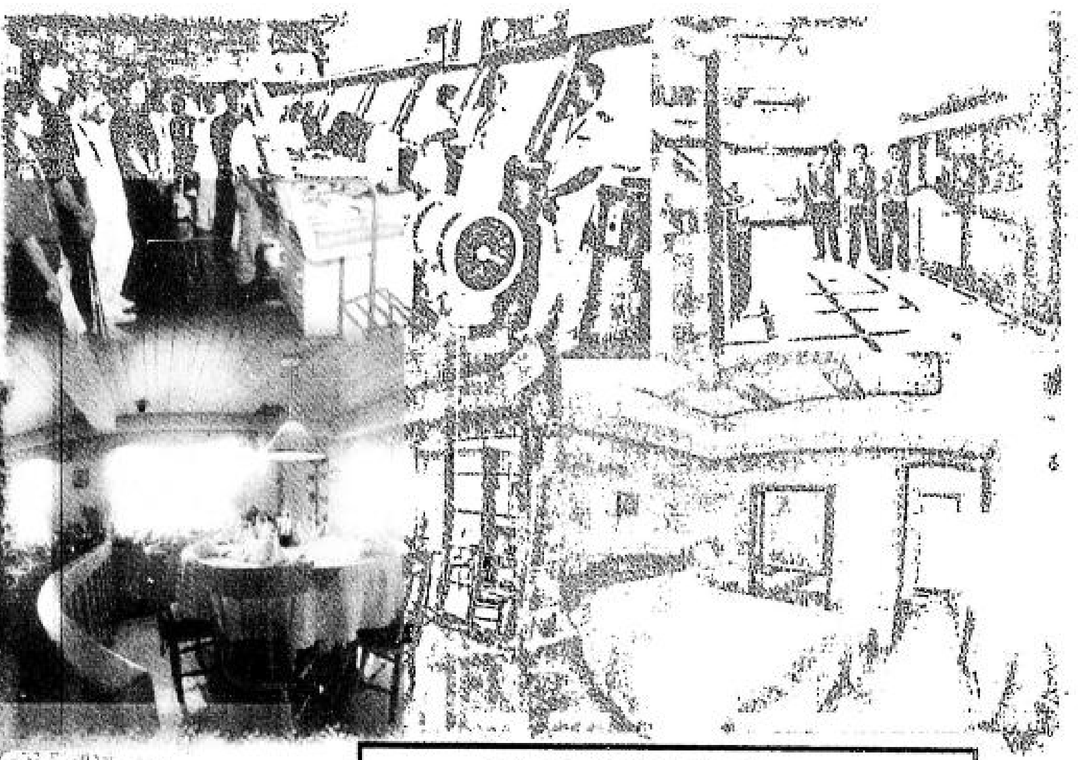
Scanning the business horizon of the 21st century, Negros Navigation Company (NENACO) aims for improved profitability and growth. NENACO has embarked on a program of streamlining its organization to achieve greater operational and financial efficiency commencing the year 2001. The company accentuated its service quality program by offering "first-of-its-kind" amenities that cater to the safety, comfort and convenience of its passengers.

Starting from clean and modern passenger transit lounges at its main port at Pier 2, North Harbor, NENACO will offer soon 24-hour line ticketing and passenger information services enabling its clients ease in booking their passage destinations. To lend further assistance, the company provides porter services free of charge and shuttle transfers at minimal rates in its ports of call. On board its well-maintained vessels, passengers can enjoy the food galleys, recreation centers, and conference rooms amid the ambience of the carefully selected themes of each ship. Passenger service on board NENACO vessels is expertly provided by Hans Gourmet Services, Inc., a consulting company in professional hotel and restaurant operations, which was engaged to further enhance the quality of service available.

A strong Risk Management function serves as the guaranty that the revenue streams from these profit centers will be realized in the most cost-efficient manner. It keeps a close monitor on the Safety Management System (SMS) of the company ensuring that it is in compliance with the International Management and Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code). The company has successfully passed the rigid surveillance audit of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Pacific in June 2000, and was awarded the Document of Compliance (DOC). NENACO ships have routinely hurdled the quarterly Emergency Readiness Evaluation drill conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Efficiencies in cargo handling are being realized with the acquisition of new 28-ton forklifts and 20-footer containers vans that are already improving freight revenues. The integration of container yards, such as the one completed in Bacolod, will be applied in more NENACO-serviced ports, and will be complemented by a comprehensive tracking system of container boxes to attain optimal usage and upkeep while reducing damages and losses. To stimulate shipper volume, the company has intensified its sales efforts by organizing a call center and Customer Service Section forging closer relationships with its clients. Product packages such as LCL (Less than Container Load) freight service are offered for the benefit of break-bulk customers, and the "Freight One Stop Shop" was designed for the convenience of all shippers.

ST. EZEKIEL MORENO



Creating Opportunities in Adversity

The economic crisis that swept the countries of Southeast Asia in 1998 had a lingering impact on the financial viability of numerous domestic and foreign corporations that operate in the region. Cognizant of this reality, NENACO sought to strengthen its fiscal position with the entry of Metro Pacific Corporation as its strategic partner in 1998. With fresh capital infusion, the company rationalized the operation of its passenger and cargo services to generate increased shareholder values. To cushion its operation from the effect of fuel price hikes, currency devaluation, and the latent political instability, it expanded its market by a merger to form the Philippine Fast Ferry Corporation serving five primary and four secondary routes in Central Visayas. NENACO poised to meet the challenges of the 21st century by refocusing its direction to make it more responsive to the needs of its markets.

MESSAGES

Greetings.

On this month of July, 2001, the 69th Anniversary of the founding of our company, Negros Navigation Company, Inc. I am pleased to report that the visions established by our founders continue to be firmly in place, visions that embrace concepts of providing excellent transportation services to the public, while seeking to be a major contributor to the economic development of our country.

Negros Navigation continues to uphold these traditions by ensuring that all services are being upgraded constantly, from vessel renovation and maintenance under the strictest supervision of top classification societies, to terminal modernization, to risk management measures to provide the highest degree of safety to our passengers and cargo shippers, and to renewing freight handling equipment for greater operational efficiency. Backing all these are commitments given by our shareholders and our new management team to sustain the traditional drive for excellence.

We view the future with optimism and hope, especially in the light of the unstinting support extended by our loyal passengers and shippers all through these years, for which we are truly grateful and appreciative, and for which we are truly grateful and appreciative, and for which we truly commit to " BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE".

May God Bless our country and our people always.

Thank you.

Sgd.
DANIEL L. LACSON, JR.
Chairman

The shipping industry is strategic in an archipelagic country composed of 7,100 islands such as ours. Negros Navigation Company Inc. (NN) has been a long time leader in this industry and today, it has added another year in its corporate life, its 69th.

Being a major force in the business of transporting people and cargo in the Philippines requires NN to set global standards of service to sustain its leadership position in the industry. Like the other companies of Metro Pacific Corporation, and the First Pacific Group, NN continues to improve its systems and operations. It has initiated changes that will provide added comfort to passengers, employed and continues to employ first class maintenance to ensure vessel safety, and sustains its drive to introduce measures that will enhance efficiency and productivity for the benefit of its customers and clients.

Those who belong to the industry will agree with me that the shipping business has not been through "smooth sailing" all the time. Rough seas, literally and figuratively, are often encountered as the vessels sail. Those who remain in the business have indeed shown strength, fortitude and resilience in keeping their vessels afloat. Over the years, NN has exemplified these positive corporate attributes.

On the occasion of its 69th anniversary, I would like to congratulate the management and staff of NN for their untiring efforts, dedication and toil in making the company what it is today. Despite the difficulties that the company has faced through its history, it remains to be a dominant factor in its chosen industry. Similarly, I would like to thank its millions of passengers and clients for their continuing support and patronage. It is mainly because of them that the company has built its long history of providing superior shipping service in the country.

Sgd.
RICARDO S. PASCUA
President & Chief Executive Officer

"Being the Best We Can Be"

Negros Navigation Company, with its orientation to product and service excellence, is keyed for market prominence in the Philippine domestic shipping industry. Its fiscal restructuring has served to strengthen its corporate footing as its re-engineered organization and third-party relationships have enhanced its operational efficiency and profitability. Navigating through the dynamic market of local shipping, NENACO has put in place the fundamental structures that will propel it to greater heights by "being the best that it can be".

CHARTING A COURSE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PHILIPPINE SHIPPING INDUSTRY: NEGROS NAVIGATION COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS

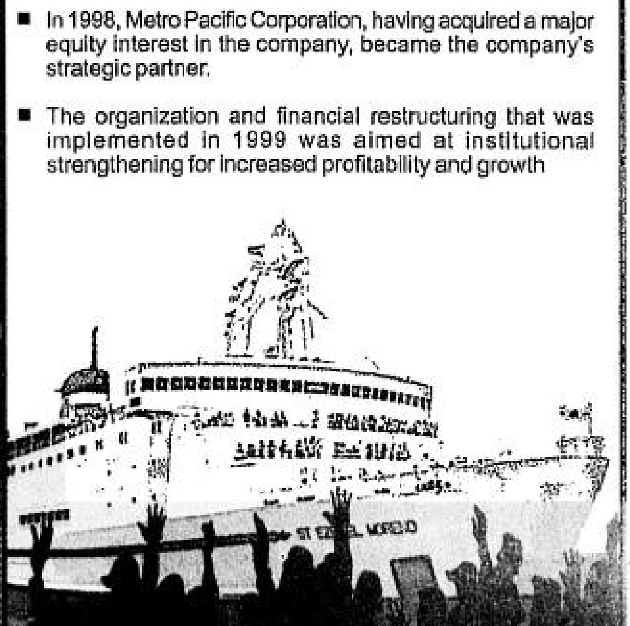
69th Anniversary

Negros Navigation Company: Establishing Milestones in the Philippine Shipping Industry

- On its founding in 1932, it was the first to operate a safe and clean ferry service for passengers and cargo between the islands of Panay and Negros.
- In 1962, its acquisition of brand new, fast, air-conditioned ships with luxurious amenities set a new standard of passenger service in domestic shipping.
- In 1972, the company built and operated a modern passenger terminal in Manila's North Harbor, the first shipping company ever to offer such a service.
- In 1974, the company introduced special cruises to tourist destinations in the Philippines as well as in the Southeast Asian region, notably Hongkong, Singapore, and Bali (Indonesia) on board the luxury cruise ship M/S Doña Monserrat.

  The company set a trend in cargo handling in the domestic shipping industry with its containerization project in 1980.
- In 1982, the company served as the forerunner in the use of passenger and cargo Roll-On, Roll-Off (RORO) vessels with its purchase of M/S Dona Florentina, reputedly the longest passenger ship in local shipping at that time.
- In 1994, the company ventured into the fast ferry business acquiring a fleet of five brand new, high speed, twin-hulled aluminum catamarans from Singapore.

  It was also during this year that Negros Navigation Company became the first shipping company in the industry to be publicly listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on the crest of a highly successful Initial Public Offering.
- Between 1995 and 1997, the company embarked on a program of fleet expansion and service quality enhancement. It offered its customers a fully-computerized on-line passenger and cargo reservations, ticketing, booking and monitoring system. In three of its ports of call, it provided free land shuttle service for its patrons.
- In 1998, Metro Pacific Corporation, having acquired a major equity interest in the company, became the company's strategic partner.
- The organization and financial restructuring that was implemented in 1999 was aimed at institutional strengthening for increased profitability and growth



Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, July 30, 2001) Inc.

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	31,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66	66	66	66	88,400
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	2,140
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	35.5	36	57,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	208	205	206	50,490
Philippine National Bank	40	42	40	41.5	187,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	100
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	7,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
First Abacus Financial	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	70,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	233	240	233	240	250
Manulife Financial Corp.	1485	1495	1485	1495	8,430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1305	1315	1305	1315	6,820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37	37.5	37	37	10,200
Diversified Fin. Network	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	660	660	50
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	25,000,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	670	665	665	37,420
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	28,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. Inc.	37	37.5	37	37	33,200
Manila Electric Co. Inc.	46	46	44	44.5	727,900
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.88	1.8	1.8	4,473,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	82,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	972,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.44	0.39	0.44	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,670,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	515,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO INC.					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	57,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5,059,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	107,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	29	28	28.5	96,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	30,000
RFM Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.26	2.26	2,771,000
San Miguel Corp. Inc.	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	123,400
San Miguel Corp. Inc.	57	57	55.5	56.5	1,232,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	406,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	2,661,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	4,216,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	117,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.3	0.23	0.26	2,890,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.76	5,369,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	290,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	250,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	140,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30	30	29.5	29.5	142,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	12,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2.02	124,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.68	270,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,130,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	410,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	181,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	530,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.29	0.3	3,240,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & Inc. TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	180,000
Music Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	144,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	120,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.53	1,840,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS Inc.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	38.5	38.5	37	37.5	173,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	9	9.3	9	9.3	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	342,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	42,300
RFM Corp. Pref.	5	5	5	5	31,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc -Warrants Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	14,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	4,889,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.9	1.9	1,711,000
City & Land Developers	2	2	2	2	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	502,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.047	0.048	0.044	0.044	.46,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. Inc.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	9,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. Inc.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	60,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	30,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	11,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	600,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	709,630	49,322,090.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	231,168,170	238,839,185.00
PRO	8,712,000	31,007,090.00
Mining	166,320,000	3,357,800.00
OIL	1,000,000	15,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	407,960,800	322,713,265.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	546.11	UP 1.79
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,918.89	DOWN 22.07
PRO	511.87	DOWN 3.83
Mining	1,303.62	DOWN 10.19
OIL	1.72	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	804.48	UP 2.32
Composite	1,350.95	DOWN 12.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 49; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 113 NO. OF TRADES: 1,986

CURRENCIES

Jul-30-2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139471	1.000000	53.3890
Japan	Yen	0.009229	0.008099	0.4324
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623291	1.424600	76.0580
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136983	0.120216	6.4182
Switzerland	Franc	0.662021	0.580990	31.0185
Canada	Dollar	0.743683	0.652656	34.8447
Singapore	Dollar	0.635085	0.557351	29.7564
Australia	Dollar	0.576947	0.506329	27.0324
Bahrain	Dinar	3.022631	2.652661	141.6229
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303826	0.266638	14.2355
Brunei	Dollar	0.630587	0.553403	29.5456
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000100	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024977	0.021920	1.1703
UAE	Dirham	0.310313	0.272331	14.5395
Korea	Won	0.000883	0.000775	0.0414
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877600	46.8542
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.44871	23.9562
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133789	7.1429
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.398238	21.2615
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063778	3.4050
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021755	1.1615
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000453	0.0242
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147602	7.8803
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004377	0.2337
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005274	0.2816
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021755	1.1615
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.114322	59.4925

Petron bounces back with ₱513-M profit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PETRON Corp. yesterday reported a net profit of P513 million for the first half of 2001, a "modest recovery" from the P628 million in net loss in the same period last year.

Petron president Motaasim A. Al-Maashouq told shareholders during their annual meeting that the firm's improved performance was due to relatively stable crude prices that eased operating costs.

"However, the peso exchange rate has remained volatile (and has) eroded some of the gains we might have realized," he said.

Maashouq added that Petron was still unable to declare dividends.

"Petron's dividend policy provides for a declaration of dividends based on the company's net income for the prior year," Maashouq pointed out.

The oil giant sustained an unprecedented loss of P1 billion for 2000.

The official added that the firm's year-on-year total sales volume for the first six months declined by 8.9 percent.

However, Maashouq said Petron sustained its leadership in the retail market into the first half of this year with a 38.2-percent share relative to those of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.

Pilipinas Shell overtook Petron from January to May, but the latter regained the lead "as we won some major industrial accounts," he said.

Meantime, Petron comptroller Antonio G. Pelayo said the company was considering an issuance of long-term commercial papers to fund its $110-million project for the isomerization unit and gas oil hydrotreater facilities. The isomerization unit would help Petron's Bataan refinery reduce the aromatics and Benzene content in gasoline products. The gas oil hydrotreater will lessen the sulfur content of diesel according to the existing law's specifications.

Maashouq said Petron would push for the completion of the project by 2003 instead of lobbying for a deferment of applying the law's requirements.

Petron also elected its new board of directors with Nicasio I. Alcantara of the Alcantara Group of Companies replacing Jose A. Syjuco Jr. as chair.

Maashouq remains president while Khalid Al-Falih, Abdullatif Al-Othman and Ziad Labban stay on as directors.

Joining them are Antonio Carpio, Francisco Viray, Bernardino Abes, Jose Luis Yulo Jr. and Doughan Al-Doughan.

DISCLOSURES

PHILWEB.com Inc. confirmed reports that it is in discussion with six potential investors in **Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.** including **Philippine Multimedia Systems Inc.** However, no agreement has been reached or finalized.

* * *

SAN MIGUEL Corp. denied reports it has made any offer to buy **Tanduay Holdings Inc.** It, however, said that in case Tanduay is available, its subsidiary **La Tondeña Distillers Inc.** would be interested.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank** accepted the resignation of Jovito Hernandez as executive vice president effective July 31. He will remain as consultant and director of the bank.

* * *

ELECTED as officers of **Philex Mining Corp.** were Henry Brimo, chair emeritus; Gerard Brimo, chair and CEO, acting president; Leonardo Josef, SVP and COO; and Alfredo Figueras, SVP and treasurer.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. elected the following officers: Perry Pe, chair; Delfine Paycana, president; Paul Richard Camangian, treasurer; and Nicanor Juan Andres Montoya, secretary.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Vulcan Industrial & Mining Corp.** were Alfredo Ramos, Patrick Caoile, lawyer Augusto Sunico, Roland David, Alfredo Calub, Christopher Gotanco, Jaime Laya, Maxino Licauco III, Francisco Navarro and Presentacion Ramos.

* * *

APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. said it is not in any way connected with **APC Group Inc.**

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 52,000 AMC shares at P2.06 per share, 20,000 shares at P2.04 and another 20,000 shares at P2.02 for its buy-back program.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms METRO MANILA
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Nimfa Tecson
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Erlinda Pacheco
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Unit Manager (Double Qualifier)
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Stephanie V. Yee - Southern Mindanao I

Group Insurance Agent Of The Year
Ricardo Macatula - Metro Manila North

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Bertrand S. Somera - Metro Manila North

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Victoria P. Manaois (RM) - Metro Manila North

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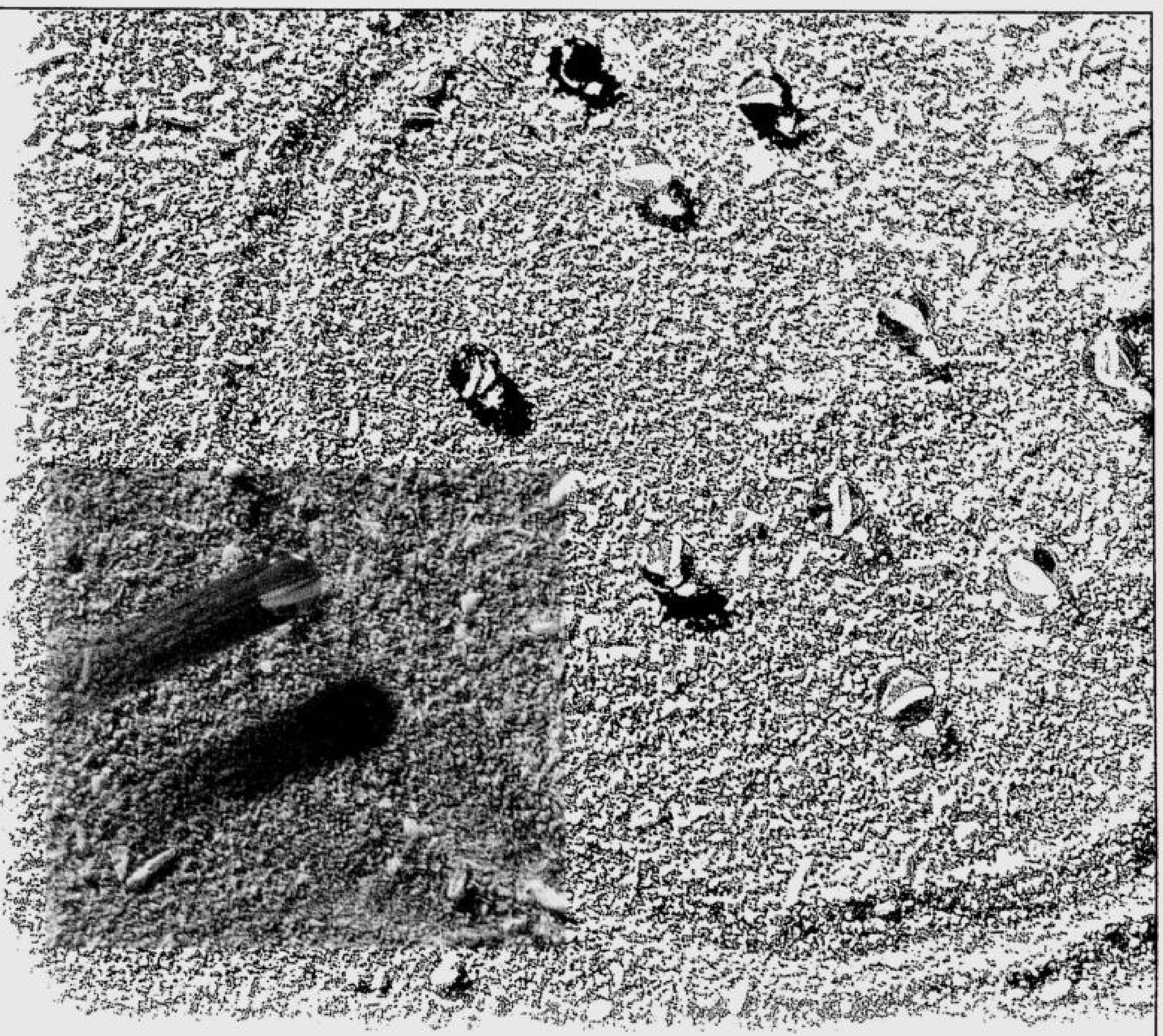

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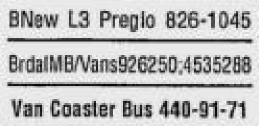

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFRDC invites all interested dealers/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and materials for the fabrication of Ten (10) units Aircraft Battery Cart.

Deadline for the submission to PBAC of Letter of Intent, DTI Registration Certificate, Business Name, Latest Audited Financial Statement and **Pre-Bid Conference is on 16 Aug 2001, 9:00 AM at the AFRDC Conference Room, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.**

Failure to submit all the PBAC requirements before the Pre-bid conference and the personal attendance of prospective suppliers/ dealers and/or their duly authorized representative to the Pre-bid Conference shall disqualify any bidder to participate. **Dropping and Opening of Bids is on 23 Aug 2001, 9:00 AM.**

Sealed bids must be in duplicate and accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 10% of the bid, but not to exceed P20,000.00 in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check or Surety Bond from AFPGIC.

The AFRDC PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waived any defect or informality of the bids received and accepts the bids most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the PBAC on such matters shall be final and binding.

For further information, please contact the PBAC at telephone nos. (043) 575-0600 or (043) 575-0633.

(Sgd.) **ARTEMIO D. GABRIEL**
Lt. Colonel PAF
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- July 31, Aug. 4 & 8, 2001)

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Nurse/M'wife Stay-In T5010681

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

SECOND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the following item:

Qty. Unit	Item
-2,500- rls.	MICR Ribbon for BULL Machine Encoder, Type E13B, size 140mm x 175m, 42mm inside core diameter (expiry date, if any, must be indicated)

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders shall submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 525-0048/523-6427 not later than August 10, 2001 photocopies of the following documents (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers of the bidder;
2. 2000 audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement) of the bidder;
3. 2000 Income Tax Return of the bidder;
4. Company history/profile of the bidder; and
5. Sample(s) of the item to be offered for evaluation/approval.

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalified bidders.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-in-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI - July 31, 2001)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of Dec. 2000 and Jan. 2001 on August 12, 2001, Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Victory Pawnshop at 45 Bonifacio Market Edsa will hold an auction sale of all expired items on Aug. 13, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Jun Zamora Auctioneer.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Juan Anacleto F. Fortich has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on June 11, 2001 under Doc#170; Page #51; Book#1;Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joseph L. Guevarra of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila (PDI-July 24,July31&Aug 7,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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OBITUARIES

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ROBERT BENEDICT (BOBBY) BRIMO

Sydney, Australia
March 23, 1957 – July 20, 2001
Son of Henry A. Brimo and Maria Paz Sotelo Brimo

The bereaved wife **HIROKU**; brothers & sisters-in-law **JERRY & JESSICA, HANK & KIKU & STEVE**; nephews **MATTHEW, MICHAEL & NICHOLAS**; nieces **STEPHANIE, DANIELLE, NICOLE & ALYSSA**; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, Marsfield, NSW, Australia before his interment last Monday, July 23, 2001.

Memorial Mass will be celebrated by **Fr. Reggie Piad** on August 2, 2001 at 8:15 a.m. at Santuario de San Jose, Duke Street, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

ATTY. JESUS M. PONCE

March 11, 1923 -- July 28, 2001

His children **Ed** and **Edith, Betty (Vicky), Chato, Bebot (Jun)** and **Leila, Benjie, Julius** and **Betty, Greta** and **Luis**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe. Interment will be on Wednesday, August 1, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed,
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last,
then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you all so dearly!"

DOÑA SOCORRO H. MATA MADARANG

of Laoag City and Makati City
A Gintong Ina Awardee 1996

Born on February 4, 1911; Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 29, 2001

Her bereaved children, grandchildren and great grandchildren:

* **Erlinda** and **Jimmy Venago** (†)
  Jomini and **Edna Mosenabre**; *(Jonathan and Jasmine)*
  Janette and **John Rasque**
  Jennifer and **Marlon Perez**; *(Mariella and Michaela)*
  Jessica and **Andrew Gorres**; *(Joanna Gillian, Angelo Jeremy and Isaiah)*
* **Teresita "Tessie" Mata** (†)
* **Rosie** and **Pepito Castro**; *(Jayrose)*
* **Penny Madarang**; *(Juan Brian, Joy and Janeen)*
* **Alice Gorres**
* **Gene Tuason**

nephews, nieces, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal soul.

Her remains lay in state at St. Alphonsus Chapel (Magallanes), interment will be at Manila Memorial Park on August 4, 2001, after the nine o'clock Mass in the morning.

CONCEPCION BANZON CANLAS

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 30, 2001 at the age of 88.

Survived by children **Aida** and **Paul Mc Clellan, Nita** and **Larry Geronimo, Nida** and **Tom Mc Donnell, Eduardo** and **Cecilia Canlas, Sonia** and **Dick Washick, Jolly** and **Estelita Canlas, Myrna** and **Rei Tañada**; grandchildren **Holly, JJ, Laurie, Michele, Liesel, Chrissy, Patrick, Edison, Eden, Edmond, Edwin, Karmel, Eric, Joanna** and **Koko.**

The body lies in state at the Premier Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City will be announced later. For further details, please contact 825-30-82/83 loc. 106.

ENRIQUE R. CARLOS

April 24, 1921 — July 28, 2001; 80 years old

His bereaved wife and children, grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 2nd of August, 3:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

Leila Recio Tardif

February 23, 1951 — July 24, 2001

Bravely battling leukemia for over a year, ***Leila*** *passed away peacefully in San Diego, California.*

Her devoted husband **Bernard**; loving son **Pierre**; parents **Greg** and **Neni (†) Recio**; sisters **Chiqui Recio (†), Monet Schemm, Peachie Dieken** and brother **Bong Recio** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Leila's incredible strength during her illness inspires us all. She will remain in countless hearts, for she touched many.

A memorial service will be held at the Christ the King Church, Green Meadows at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, August 1, 2001.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Alcatel OmniTouch contact center wins Product of the Year Award

THE ALCATEL OmniTouch contact center suite recently received the Customer Interaction Solutions Magazine 2000 Product of the Year award. The nominees for the award comprised of top customer relationship and workforce management technology picks from the Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine's editorial team.

The prestigious Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine awards honor the companies and products that shaped the customer relationship management (CRM) and services industry in 2000. The OmniTouch contact center was recognized by Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine for its open architecture as well as its consistent management framework that allows global supervision and control of its contact center offering.

Designed for the Alcatel OmniPCX 4400 IP-based PBX, the world's most advanced IP-based voice communications system, the award winning OmniTouch offers users a suite of software application modules to build world-class, multi- media- contact centers. The OmniTouch is Alcatel's premier solution for medium and large enterprises that want to deploy an integrated contact center/IP-based PBX solution for implementation in a short time period with a low total cost of ownership.

Recent integration of leading contact center functionality from Genesys Telecommunications Laboratories Inc., wholly owned subsidiary of Alcatel, allows customers to benefit from the latest contact center solution to help them manage all of their calls more easily and more efficiently. Leveraging Genesys' Internet contact center technology, the new features include CCweb (for integrating Web technology into a contact center), CCemail (for integrating e-mail into a contact center) and CCoutbound (for automatic generation of outgoing calls).

"Alcatel is honored to accept a distinguished award for our ability to optimize customer interactions. The OmniTouch contact center suite of application modules is tailored to meet the requirements of users wanting to deploy cost-effective, revenue-generating CRM solutions," said Gilbert M. Paggabao, president and general manager of Alcatel e-Business Distribution Inc. in the Philippines. "With industry recognition such as this Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine Product of the Year award, Alcatel will continue to be the premier source for medium and large enterprise users who are looking for an out-of-the-box contact center solution to complement the Alcatel OmniPCX 4400."

EASTERN TELECOMS
CABLE

EASTERN TELECOMS, BONIFACIO CABLE ONE SIGN MOU

Angelo C. Molato (seated, left) Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Etpi) chief operating officer and Vicente Ticsay III (seated, right), Bonifacio Cable One Corp. director sign the memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing Etpi to interconnect its fiber optic facilities to BCOC's designated access points within the Bonifacio Global City (BGC). Etpi has been accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) to provide the same services within the e-Square IT Zone of Bonifacio Global City. Standing (from left) are Henry Sarmiento, Etpi operations senior manager; Philip San Luis, Etpi account manager (ISP Group); Agnes Atienza-Gervacio, Etpi VP and head, corporate and major business unit; Joevel E. Rivera, Etpi VP for Internet business unit (IBU); Teresa Tabada, BCOC network planning manager; Jose Santos, FBDC corporate development manager; Rafael Fragante, FBDC marketing director and engineer Lito Viola, BCOC technical manager. Eastern Telecoms is the leading provider of Internet and data communications services and offers Access landline service in Manila and Caloocan.

IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENT PATIENTS

PhilamLife Foundation supports Lingkod-ER Foundation, a foundation which helps indigent patients at the emergency room of the Philippine General Hospital, University of Santo Tomas Hospital and Locsin Montelibano Regional Hospital in Bacolod City. Lawyer Manuel Ortega, acting executive director, hands over plaque of support to Ma Luis R. Ticzon, director, Lingkod-ER Foundation Inc.; and Maximilian Ventura, assistant executive director, pose during the event formalizing the support.

Philam Plans expands sales team

PHILAM Plans recently boasted of a rapidly expanding distribution network, with its sales force now numbering 27,064 nationwide. This agency force brings in the bulk of the company's business by marketing its pension, education and life plans.

The pre-need company, which celebrated its 12th anniversary last April, reserves the highest form of compensation, prestigious rewards and innumerable perks for its sales associates. Every year, top sales producers embark on an all-expense-paid incentive trip in a choice tourist within the country, where they are treated to parties, awards ceremonies and teambuilding activities in an event aptly named Lakbayan.

Qualifiers to the Globetrotters, another of Philam Plan's prestigious incentive programs, also have the privilege of taking a trip to a foreign destination. In the past, Philam Plan's jetsetters have gone to Australia, Canada, Singapore and Las Vegas. This year, Globetrotters' qualifiers are going to China and the United States.

As a rapidly growing family, Philam Plans is inviting active men and women who want to be part of its sales force. With the company's high regard for its customers, its sales associates need to be dedicated to the company's goals and committed to customer service excellence.

Philam Plans is currently one of the leading pre-need companies in the country today. It boasts of 67 branch offices nationwide. It likewise markets its products to Filipinos overseas through its local brokers in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Saipan, Guam, Brunei and Qatar.

EXEC HONORED ON EQUITABLE PCI'S 50TH YEAR

On the occasion of Equitable PCI Bank's 50th anniversary recently, Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel was presented the Gold Circle Award for her 'remarkable academic and business accomplishments as well as her civic and social undertakings.' Ticzon-Martel is chair of Belco Marketing Incorporated (BMI), executive vice president of Harrison Plaza and director of the board of Marsteel Consolidated Inc. She is the wife of Antonio V. Martel Jr., president of Harrison Plaza. Award ceremonies was held at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City. Shown above are (from left) Ding Francisco, Equitable PCI Bank manager, Century Park Hotel branch; Antonio V. Martel Jr.; awardee Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel; and Annie Ngo, vice-president of Equitable PCI Bank.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES SALES AWARDS

Northwest Airlines recently held its annual sales awards for the outstanding members of Northwest's sales and marketing team. Northwest general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia Laurie Lofgren, Northwest Airlines-ITI general manager Gina Campos and this year's awardees are shown. Northwest Airlines is the fourth largest airline in the world. From Manila, Northwest flies 21 times a week to the United States and Canada via Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya. Its online booking service is now available at www.nwa.com.ph.

Pasta selection at Allegro Café

THERE is definitely something new and exciting brewing over at Allegro Caffé Italiano (located at Street Level, Glorietta 3, in front of Landmark). This café, known for its excellent coffee and irresistable cakes and pastries, has again come up with something people will surely be talking about. Just recently it has asked chef extraordinaire Mervyn Whitfield, owner of Piccolo Mondo (Parañaque) to help it with its latest promo. Chef Mervyn is an expert when it comes to nouvelle cuisine--always coming up with new recipes and reinventing old favorites, adding his own touch to traditional dishes. He has gone from managing a British rock group to starting out small with a chef apprenticeship to cooking dishes for some the most prominent names in the history of music, namely Elton John, Eric Clapton and the Beatles. How he ended up here in the Philippines was totally accidental, but ever since he was "detoured" here from a visit he made to Vietnam nine years ago, he has never left. He, "absolutely loves it here" said chef Mervyn, going on about how much Filipinos have touched his heart. Besides owning and managing his own bistro, he has agreed to share his incredibly broad knowledge of Italian cuisine with Allegro, creating remarkable alliance.

What, exactly, is this masterplan? Well, they call it the Authentic Italian Extravaganza which offers an array of overly appetizing pastas cooked fresh. Some of the choices in this incredible lineup are the Linguini Pesto (Pasta in a fresh basic, garlic and olive oil paste), Linguini Pescatore (pasta with choice seafoods cooked in olive oil), spaghetti with Italian sausage (with tomato-herb sauce) and also well known favorites like lasagna and spaghetti with meatballs. And yes, these delicious dishes are cooked on the spot, right after you order them, proving how much Allegro values freshness and quality for their customers. Careful and explicit selection of each ingredient that goes into any order, whether it be the sauce, the herbs, the spices – assures each customer merit-worthy cuisine. Plus each pasta ordered comes with free regular iced tea, tasty garlic bread, and lots and lots of Parmesan cheese.

KITCHEN WHIZ TEENS

The San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center recently held a kitchen-survival course for teenagers titled, 'Kitchen Whiz Teens' featuring food consultant and pastry chef Jill Sandique. Here, Chef Jill demonstrates a basic meatloaf recipe to the participants. The activity featured recipes using Magnolia Chicken, Monterey, CampoCarne, Star Garlic Flavored Margarine and Magnolia Cheezee. The activity was also co-sponsored by Magnolia Fruit Drinks, Glad, Petron Gasul and Tefal.

HEWLETT-PACKARD HONORS OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNERS

In line with its continuing support for its channel partners and appreciation of their efforts to make Hewlett-Packard (HP) products and services more accessible to local consumers, HP Philippines honored its valuable business partners during its recently concluded partners night celebration. HP gave out awards to its most outstanding authorized retailers and resellers in recognition of their contribution to making HP a leading provider of computing, imaging and printing solutions and services in the Philippine market. Shown are (from left) HP Asia Pacific director and GM for channels, alliances and partners Ken Koo; retailer of the year Nelson Co of Silicon Valley; DesignJet business partner of the year Emil Linsangan of CompuADD; accredited commercial reseller of the year Joel Pe of Silicon Valley; wholesaler of the year Jimmy Go of MSI-Digiland; corporate reseller of the year Juan Chua of Nexus Technologies; HP Philippines president and GM Raymund del Val; Pransenit Sarkar, HP Asia Pacific regional volume partner sales manager for channels, alliances and partners; and HP Philippines country manager for channels, alliances and partners Ireen Catane.

UST Education golden jubilee reunion

MEMBERS of Class 1951 of the College of Education, UST will hold a reunion to celebrate their Golden Jubilee at the Traders Hotel, 3001 Roxas Boulevard, in front of CCP, on Aug. 4, Saturday, starting at 10 a.m. For details call Modesta Umali Margallo (class president) 822-3848, Nellie Quevedo Bassig 253-7049, Augustina Aquino Salazar 712-4582, Caridad Sevilla 731-5327, Soledad Bengzon Guingona 850-4864.

HOUSE FOR STREETCHILDREN IN CEBU

Inspired by the apostolic deeds of Fr. Luigi Maria Monti, founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) and the great desire to serve the Filipino children, the CFIC Brothers opened the Sto. Nino Center in Lilo-an, Cebu. At present there are some 30 children (shown above) being housed and nurtured in the center. To keep this center going, donations may be sent to CFIC Brothers Foundation Inc. at the United Coconut Planters Bank, Mandaue Branch, Mandaue City, Cebu, according to Fr. Daniele Bertoldi, the founder of the Sto. Nino Center in Lilo-an, Cebu.

Creba backs housing program of Macapagal administration

GOYAREB

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) has expressed its support to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's housing program as a means of aggressively responding to the crisis of homelessness in the country.

Creba national president Charlie Goyareb expressed elation that the President in her State of the Nation Address before Congress last week has stamped the housing program with "the urgency and the importance it deserves in confronting the crisis." As a result, he said, housing, especially for the low-income and the underprivileged, is now one of the major centerpieces of the Macapagal administration.

The President vowed to push for a P20-million appropriation on top of a P10-billion contribution from the Pag-Ibig Fund, and P5 billion each from the housing portfolios of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

Goyareb said that if the P50 billion from the unused funds of the Agri-Agra Fund is added to the P40 billion being made available by the President, the total seed money to spur housing activities will be P90 billion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura had earlier confirmed the availability of the P50-billion Agri-Agra Fund.

The Creba head said President Macapagal appears to have the political will to make sure that the funds needed are made available to ensure the success of "what she must have been convinced is the only solution to the problem of homelessness."

The President and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, according to Goyareb, will make an effective "GMA-JDV housing team" to push an aggressive housing program." The Speaker, he said, espoused a pro-housing advocacy in his bid for the top House position.

Creba had earlier called De Venecia "a true champion of the sustainable housing program." The Speaker, it said, fully realizes that "an aggressive, well-managed and well-funded" housing program will have a pump-priming impact on the national economy, creating employment opportunities all around and catalyzing industries and sectors into frenzied activities.

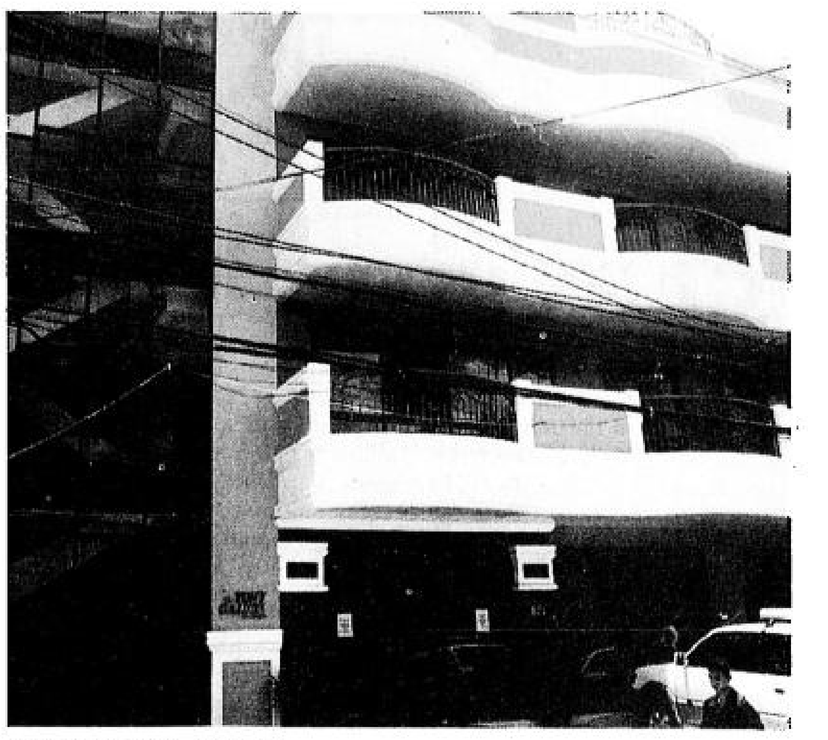
Almost all the basic features of the GMA housing program, Goyareb proudly said, have been part and parcel of Creba's advocacy for the last decade. The chamber, he said, has been selling the idea of a total and integrated approach as the only sensible, feasible and lasting solution to the housing problem.

The President also called on Congress to establish a full-fledged Department of Housing and Urban Development to spearhead government efforts in housing. Creba said it had also been pushing for such a department and submitted its own proposals to strengthen the agency's authority as the major government housing institution.

Secretary Michael Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, when still a congressman in the last Congress, was one of the main co-authors of the measure. But the Congress failed to pass the measure.

Another Creba proposal, which jibes with the administration's housing strategy, is the operation of a centralized secondary home mortgage market to help bolster the viability of the housing finance system.

Thus, Creba said, the Macapagal housing strategy will confront the housing problem on two fronts, the primary sourcing of funds and the secondary mortgage market. This, Goyareb said, will ensure a continuous spin-off into securities or bonds of mortgages that will otherwise remain idle assets during years of amortization by home buyers.



READY FOR LEASE

Tony Galvez, one of the country's foremost authorities on hair technology, announces the completion of The Tony Galvez Centrum, a five-story commercial building located at 124 9th Avenue near corner P. Tuazon, Araneta Center. Built to house health and beauty-related establishments that complement the principles of professionalism and quality servicing espoused by the Tony Galvez Salon, it is designed by architect Jerry Lim in elegant European architectural style. Now ready for commercial lease, the place is ideal for slimming salons, spa, gym, dancing and aerobic studios, dermatology and surgical clinics, health and beauty-related businesses, in addition to office spaces and ground floor restaurant.

Brittany espouses cluster planning

FOR most TV buffs, Knots Landing brings back memories of an epic soap that run for 14 seasons chronicling the absorbing struggles of a lively middle-class community living together in a cul-de-sac.

It has been almost been a decade since this series, set in Seaview Circle, folded up but most middle-aged professionals still remember those countless enjoyable viewing hours that tackled issues as varied as troubled marriages, unshakable bonds of friendship, fortunes made and lost, drug addiction, suicide and the triumph of the human spirit.

But one aspect of this soap opera that has often been taken for granted is why such people with diverse careers and lifestyles are able to interact so closely that their lives have practically become intertwined. The reason is simple: cluster planning.

Here in the Philippines, most communities are constructed like a grid—square plots separated by strips of roads. However, Brittany Corp., one of the most innovative developers of communities in the country, is espousing another building concept—cluster planning—which is more conducive to cluster living.

"In cluster planning, houses are usually built around a semicircular enclave. The center portion is made into a common area like a pocket park or a lake which is shared by the residents of the enclave," explains Jine Serrano, general manager of Brittany Corp.

According to Serrano, the cluster planning concept encourages socialization among neighbors and generally uplifts both the beauty of the estate and the quality of life of the residents.

Says Serrano: "We must realize that quality of life is not made better simply by living in a monolithic mansion. Brittany developments are made in such a way that there is neighborly interaction. People do not have to walk far or drive to a big central park because they can just step out of their front door and there is a well-appointed area to chat or play with their neighbors."

For example, both Island Park, the first-ever American suburban-style community in the country on Governor's Drive, Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Belie Reve, a Mediterranean-inspired village in Sta. Rosa, have numerous pocket parks each measuring around 2,000 square meters spread throughout the community. This is the same planning concept implemented in Promenade, an English-inspired enclave wherein the common areas not only include lush greenery but also lakes.

For the environmentally conscientious, cluster planning makes communities "walkable"—residents can walk instead of drive around—which translates to less harmful exhaust emissions from cars. Also, these pocket parks and bodies of water serve as purifiers or filters giving the estate an aura of freshness.

Whether its in America, Australia, Europe, or the Philippines, cluster planning delivers countless tangible and intangible benefits that transform villages into close-knit communities that are well worth coming home to.

Star Mills Pampanga to open by year-end

ROBINSONS Land Corp.'s Star Mills Pampanga is now under construction and is expected to open by the end of the year.

Strategically located on the Gapan-Olongapo Road, near the San Fernando Exit, Star Mills will be the center of activity for residents and commuters who regularly ply this route.

Minda V. Carpio, RLC vice president for lease, announced that RLC has developed a new concept for Star Mills.

"We promise to bring a brand-new malling experience to Pampanga as well as in the nearby provinces," Carpio said.

Situated in a sprawling 24 hectare property, Star Mills Pampanga will be a haven of outlet stores which will carry well-known brands.

"This is a popular US retail concept, which we believe will click among Filipino consumers," Carpio said.

Al fresco dining will dictate the ambiance at the ground level of the mall where coffee shops and restaurants will be located.

Other popular retail concepts and new formats can also be expected in this level.

Big R Supercenter, a discount and mass merchandise retail outlet, Robinsons Handyman and Robinsons Department Store are also set to open at the mall.

Other retail shops, popular fast-food chains, service centers and home and appliance centers, amusement and entertainment facilities and state-of-the-art cinemas are also expected to open in this 2 level shopping mall.

"We are definitely bringing world-class shopping to San Fernando, Pampanga," Carpio added.

MGS paving stones make outdoors alive

"PEOPLE should be able to enjoy their homes," says Josie R. Diaz, an architect who has designed a lot of homes. "Enjoying one's home means looking into all the necessary details so that everything is in place. The blending of colors and materials can produce the effect of harmony and peace in one's surroundings." It is not only the interiors of the house that should be looked into—it is also equally important to make your outdoors come alive. The area surrounding your house should be as attractive as the house itself', she explained.

Hence it is necessary to have a well-trimmed lawn and a beautiful garden. Paving stones can be used to enhance the greeneries in your yard.

MGS paving stones can dramatically change the look of your garden, carport and even your sidewalk. They are also perfect for gardens footpaths, walkways and swimming pool decks. The paving stones, also known as interlocking blocks, come in a variety of design, shapes and colors.

The MGS has two Besser machines intended only to produce quality paving stones. These two machines located at Dasmariñas, Cavite, can generate almost a million of pavers a month. These machines are also capable of producing paving stones with comprehensive strength of 3,000 psi. to 8,000 psi. MGS Besser Block plants have laboratories that can assure quality testing. One can be assured of quality in MGS Besser products.

These pavers give us a wide variety of shapes, colors and structural strength to choose from. That's why it is fast becoming a benchmark in the landscape market.

COLLIERS
JARDINE

NEW PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS

The premier property services firm moves its Philippine headquarters to the first Peza- approved IT vertical development in the country. Colliers Jardine Philippines (CJP) recently celebrated the blessing and inauguration of its new office at the 10th floor, Tower 2 of RCBC Plaza. Gracing the event is guest of honor and former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos with, from left: CJ Group finance director Geoffrey Brown, CJP managing director Nigel Lucas, Filinvest Development Corp. president Josephine Yap, Asian Appraisal president Benjie Bitanga, and CJ chief executive officer Jonathan Petit.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN SQUARE

Location, design, affordability in one success story

HOUSING developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. has made California Garden Square one of its most successful urban projects to date by combining an excellent location, a winning home design and layout and superior amenities found in a self-contained residential master plan with friendly, affordable payment terms.

The project's strategic central location near Shaw Boulevard and the MRT III in Mandaluyong City has appealed to the young and highly mobile set, who are looking for an ideal place to stay. For someone who regularly shuttles to different places in and around the metropolis such as singer Cashmere Ortiz of the popular band Toy Symphony, the excellent location of the project was a big come-on. After visiting the site and inspecting the model unit at the showroom, she and her husband knew they had found their dream home.

Located at the corner of Libertad and Calbayog streets near Edsa, California Garden Square is within easy commuting distance from the Makati and Ortigas business districts. With its prime location, residents will have no problem going from one place to another—be it for work, leisure, school or shopping.

A two-story, two-bedroom layout is one of the project's best features, as it offers much-needed space not found in residential condominiums elsewhere.

Urban enclave

Consisting of seven clusters, Empire East's urban enclave is meticulously planned to welcome homeowners with an airy, tropical resort feeling. It boasts of a tree-lined interior road, two wide entry/exit points, landscaped rotundas and surroundings, a flower garden, a palm court, decorative trellis, a two-story clubhouse and provision for a future nursery school. Each building is equipped with a provision for Internet access, high-speed elevators, stand-by generators, cisterns and water tanks, an audio intercom system and a smoke-detection system.

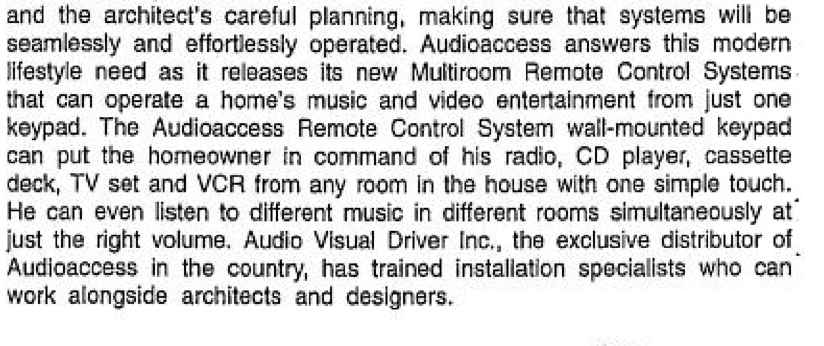
Complementing the tropical ambience of the project is a pool deck consisting of a free-form pool with a gazebo bridge, a wet bar, wading pool and a sunbathing area. There is a clubhouse with a gym and a squash court inside for the residents' exclusive use. The project's commercial center, the DMG Plaza, offers the added convenience of one-stop family and personal shopping.

Irresistible

Ana Cayetano, an assistant manager for marketing promotions at Nestlé, found California Garden Square irresistible not only because of its favored location and first-rate amenities but also because of the opportunity it presented to own a prime piece of real estate in an affordable way. Says Cayetano: "The price and the terms are superior to those of comparable residential projects."

Instead of the usual fixed-term plan, Empire East has opted to waive the down payment and structured a low monthly amortization plan suited to meet the financial capabilities of the target buyers.

Excavation, structural, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and fire protection works for the first cluster, Anaheim, are currently under way. The six other clusters are Burbank, Carlton, Dayton, Fairfax, El Dorado and Glenhaven. A model unit is available for viewing at the site.



TOTAL CONTROL

Much of today's beautiful homes can be credited to their homeowners' and the architect's careful planning, making sure that systems will be seamlessly and effortlessly operated. Audioaccess answers this modern lifestyle need as it releases its new Multiroom Remote Control Systems that can operate a home's music and video entertainment from just one keypad. The Audioaccess Remote Control System wall-mounted keypad can put the homeowner in command of his radio, CD player, cassette deck, TV set and VCR from any room in the house with one simple touch. He can even listen to different music in different rooms simultaneously at just the right volume. Audio Visual Driver Inc., the exclusive distributor of Audioaccess in the country, has trained installation specialists who can work alongside architects and designers.

Bonifacio Gas bags another contract

BONIFACIO Gas Corp., the country's leading provider of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has bagged another contract for the gas-fired air-conditioning system of Hatchasia Global City Center in Fort Bonifacio.

Hatchasia Global City center is designed primarily to answer the needs of technology-driven clients in keeping in the bustling e-commerce way of doing business.

To ensure that its clients are provided with the most efficient way for centralized air-conditioning needs, Hatchasia has decided to tap the BGC for its supply of its gas-fired chiller.

BGC does not only provide piped-in LPG for domestic cooking but also gas-fired air-conditioning technology.

Hatchasia is a 5-level building including ground level and roof deck area. It can accommodate almost 300 car slots. As an intelligent building, the edifice is equipped with the necessary amenities like high-speed elevators, integrated electronic security system, emergency powers, fire safety, water supply and other provision for dining and recreation facilities.

Being an IT building, Hatchasia is wired via the 11-kilometer first loop of their core fiber optic cable link with Bonifacio Communication Corp.

Fiber cabling for data and video application services and twisted copper cable for plain voice service would be made available to Hatchasia's clients from Bonifacio Cable One Corp.

Initially, the BGC concentrated its operation within the Global City in support of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.'s goal to create a globally competing metropolis.

SITE INSPECTION

Mark Voss, design associate for Robert Trent Jones II (RTJ II) was recently in town to inspect the on-going construction of their latest Golf Project, the summit point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas. Together with him from left to right: Mr. Eric Mananquil, Golf Development Consultant of Sta. Lucia Reality (SLR), Mr. Wilson Chan, Partner of Summit Point Reality and Development Corp. (SPRDC), Mr.Conrad C. Leviste, Chairman of SPRDC, Michael Kahler, Director for Asian Operations (RTJII), Winifred Gob, Vice-President for Engineering (SLR), Mike Poobalan, Foreign Golf Course Shaper and Lauro S. Leviste, President of SPRDC.

Real Estate

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

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IcFox gives RP access to $3.6-T construction market

DESPITE the ongoing economic slowdown, five of the world's biggest players in the construction and IT industries will be doing business in the Philippines to introduce a new Internet business which will link the country to a $3.6-trillion global construction market.

The venture, called icFox Philippines, will also give the country an access into the US$ 1.1 trillion-a-year construction market in the Asia-Pacific.

Internet exchange

IcFox operates as a (B2B) Internet exchange that offers business-enabling platforms designed to provide industry-related information, practical project management collaborative tools, a tendering platform and market access to the global construction industry.

As an Internet exchange specifically designed for the global construction industry, icFox provides comprehensive information and useful tools for its users worldwide. It has the world's first multilingual catalogue system, and an online tendering platform that allows developers and owners to post tenders, and for contractors and suppliers to view and respond to tender notices. It also has an online project management and collaboration tool, the ProjectNet, that allows users to view project documents and manage projects over the Internet anytime and anywhere.

The new business derives its revenues from a combination of membership and usage fees from its catalogue hosting, online tendering platform and project management tools.

Comprising the new company are Davis Langdon & Seah International network, the world's leading quantity surveying, cost engineering and construction cost consultancy practice and which has been operating in the Philippines since 1982; Cheung Kong, a major conglomerate in Asia based in Hong Kong; CapitaLand, a merger of the DBS Land and Pidemco Land in Singapore; Paul Y.-ITC Group, a multinational and multidiscipline provider of construction, mining, telecom and infrastructure services; and the Hanny Group, an international manufacturing, sales and marketing group for magnetic and optical data storage media.

RP launch

The launch of icFox Philippines follows the recent launch in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and will soon be rolling out in other parts of Asia.

"Combine this international network with the immense strength of its founding members—all big players in the construction and property business—and you've got a business development team that is unrivaled in the world. That's what we are offering this country," icFox Philippines chair and concurrent president of Davis Langdon and Seah (Phils.) Malcolm Anderson said.

Anderson believes the Philippines will weather her current political and economic turmoil in due time. He said the country's English-speaking and IT-savvy workforce, the world's third biggest, is a force to reckon with. "We want to make our presence in the (Asia-Pacific) region, and the Philippines is a strategic part of that region," he noted.

Industry analysts say the fragmented local construction industry can be made more competitive by linking it to the best in construction expertise and technology.

Anderson hopes to overcome the industry's weaknesses: "icFox will be here to help the industry embrace a new technology that will make its operations more efficient and competitive."

Sta. Lucia develops satellite community for home builders

SPACE is at a premium these days in Manila and the closest outlying towns, given the logical mindset that most people prefer to stay right within their place of industry. This is a daunting reality, though, for most would-be homeowners who need a bigger ground on which to invest the present and build their future on. Fortunately, satellite towns are being developed where the prospective industry is quietly putting down its stakes.

Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., the premiere developer with a keen perspective that recognizes the first signs of a satellite town in progress, is right up there providing affordable but space-friendly housing—such as its bid in Monte Verde, Tarlac.

Merely three hours away from Manila, Monte Verde in San Juan de Mata, Tarlac, is a 50-hectare master-planned community divided into three residential villages—the Sierra Madre, the Carballo and the Cordillera. Aptly named to invoke the rural setting, these villages hold lots that are perfect for middle-sized homes.

Whereas most realty developers concentrate on invoking the modern and the contemporary, Monte Verde is particularly true to its roots.

Said Exequiel Robles, lead visionary of Sta. Lucia Realty: "Consider the diverse cultures and dialects that enrich Tarlac as it is—Kapampangans, Tagalogs and Ilocanos. Each group of these people has a discipline, foresight and work ethic all its own, plus a sense of history that so many of the industrial city's children miss out on. We, as a developer, may solely exist for the purpose of building efficient communities but we also would like to think that with Monte Verde, we didn't really take away much of the rural flavor in lieu of modernity. We would like to think we are in fact honoring Tarlac and prospective homeowners who long for a community in the true sense of the word right outside their gates and within it."

This is not to say, Robles was quick to point out, that holding true to the rural setting is without the urban conveniences. Typically, Sta. Lucia has brought together the best of both worlds. Monte Verde offers all the simplicity and safety of country living but has put in modern amenities such as uninterrupted electricity and safe water facilities. The perimeter wall secures the homes and a grand clubhouse for community functions with dining facilities and spacious rooms for events, gatherings and hopefully, for celebrating milestones of the community. Kid-safe and friendly recreation facilities such as children's playground, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts are intended to provide families room to "grow on and grow with."

Outside the gates, leading businesses and factories engaged in light, nonpolluting manufacturing services for foreign and domestic markets abound. The economic centers of Clark Field, Subic Freeport and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport provides opportunities for more growth and lends Tarlac access to international avenues of progress. The shopping mall, once a uniquely big city leisure ground, isn't a rarity in Tarlac which currently has the reputation of being the mecca of shopping malls in the region—thriving at that—a sure sign of accomplishment the varied disciplines of the town's ethnic diversity has collectively built.

Said Robles: "Our operative word is really 'community.' After a day's plodding on at work, most people would want to still be rewarded with not just a housing unit, but a sense of connectedness in the home and outside their front door. Filipinos are neighborly by nature and being in a setting that inspires and encourages this trait builds communities. In turn, these communities build business—if you're happily rewarded by your efforts it shows in the way you work. We may be building on an area's growth potential, but we feel if we provide the proper setting, the potential community will spur that growth further."

LEASE AGREEMENT

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. recently signed a lease agreement with Pier One Entertainment and Restaurant Corp. for the latter's newest undertaking in a 625-square-meter area located within the Global City's retail and entertainment district. Pier One at The Fort Square will commence operation in August 2001. Pier One joins the other existing establishments at The Fort, which includes the recently-opened Dencio's Bar Grill and Restaurant, Par 43 mini-golf facilities and The NBC Tent. The lease agreement was signed by Carlos S. Rufino, senior vice president for commercial operations 1, FBDC; and Francis A. Juan, president, Pier One Entertainment Restaurant Corp. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ronaldo E. Mayor, vice president, City Center, FBDC; Elizabeth G. Rabuy, general manager, Bonifacio Estate Services Corp. and Ferdinand A. Juan, partner/business development officer.

Montgomery Place II breaks ground

AYALA Land has decided to launch the second phase of its 7.5-hectare townhouse community in Quezon City ahead of schedule. The decision came about after the successful initial offering of Montgomery Place early this year.

Initially programmed for opening early next year, the new phase of Montgomery Place recently broke ground. The launch of phase 2 is expected to further ease the pent-up demand for this prime property.

Montgomery Place is ideal for those who seek good investments as well as young, start-up professionals who want to live and raise a family in a well-planned and managed community with full amenities right at the heart of the urban center.

Located on E. Rodriguez Avenue in New Manila, the project is proving to be very desirable because of its proximity to commercial and business hubs in the metropolis.

THE FAÇADE of Montgomery's lush greenery

Angie Lacson, Ayala Land vice president who heads the Residential Buildings Group, says Montgomery Place is ideal for those who want to build a home that's just a few minutes from work.

"Moreover, buyers can actually own the land where their units are built, which makes Montgomery Place really attractive, especially since land in the New Manila area has become scarce," she adds.

Fully finished, the units range in floor area size from 100 to 173.8 square meters. They fetch a price tag of anywhere between P6.2 million and P9.3 million.

In February this year, the first phase of Montgomery Place was offered to the public. Very brisk sales were observed within the two weeks of the launch, indicating a huge pent-up demand.

Present during the groundbreaking were Ayala Land vice presidents Angie Lacson (Residential Buildings Group), Marivic Añonuevo (Sales and Marketing Services Group) and Emilio Tumbocon (Construction Management Group) and Ruperto Rodriguez, AVP of Ayala Land's Technical Planning Division. Special guest was chair Johnny Rabanal of Barangay Kalusugan where Montgomery Place is located.

NREA mid-year membership meet

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association, the one-stop trade organization of real estate practitioners, will hold its mid-year membership meeting and testimonial dinner tonight at the South Villa Restaurant, Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Jose V. Manalad, NREA national chair, said the occasion serves as the semestral assessment of the developments in the real estate and property sector, including the contribution of NREA members in supporting the government's national shelter program.

During the testimonial dinner, the NREA will honor its friends and members, who were elected in various positions during the recent national elections.

The honorees include Pampanga Gov. Lito M. Lapid, Representatives Jose G. Solis of Sorsogon, Eduardo C. Zialcita of Parañaque, Mauricio G. Domogan of Baguio City and Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon of Muntinlupa, and Quezon City Councilor Bernadette R. Herrera.

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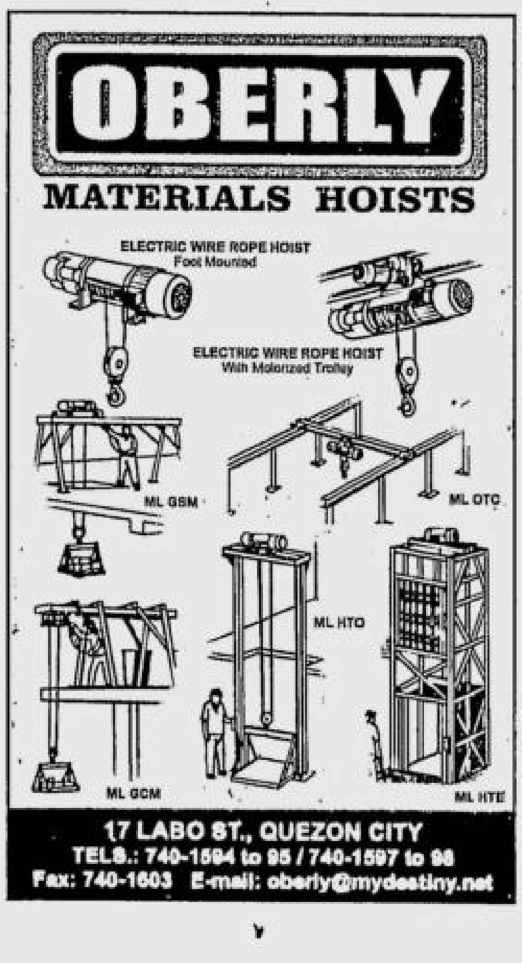
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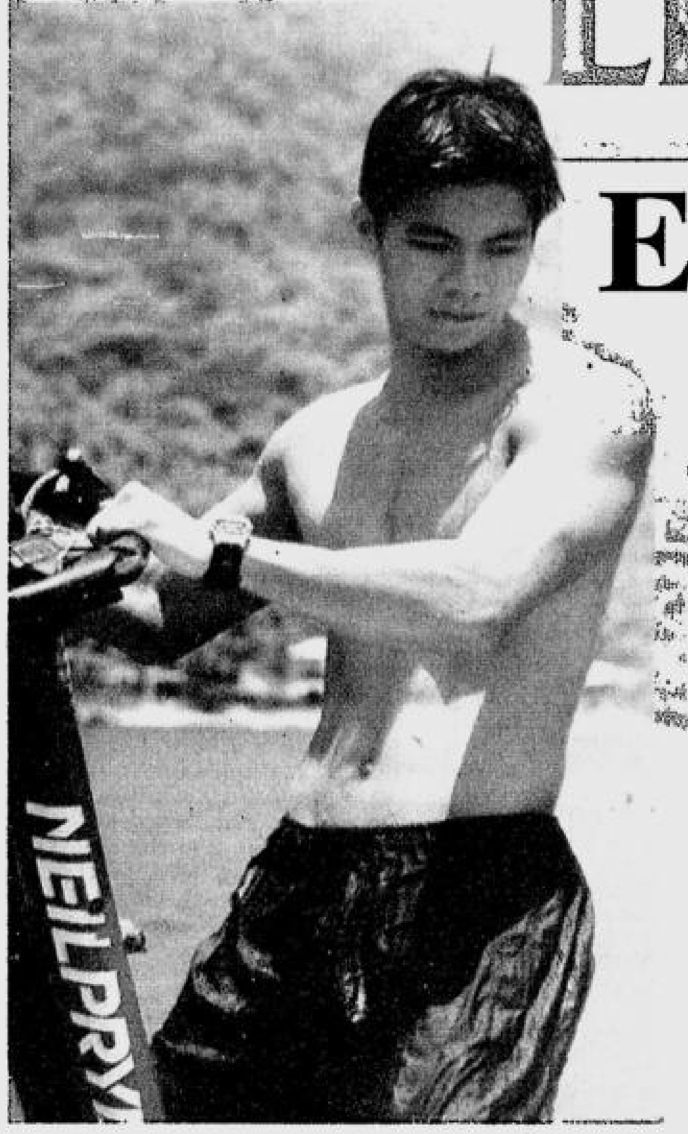

It was a weekend
that promised
extreme action;
with a wind too calm
for windsurfing, they
got on the jet ski and
soon went through
an experience
too thrilling
for comfort

"PLANET X" host Olivia Richards learning the ropes of windsurfing. The author (extreme left) gets the same lessons and much more.

By John Aguilar

SOMETIMES, events happen in our lives that jolt us with the reality that we are not indestructible. We push things to the extreme only to fall flat on our faces because of our own shortcomings.

That happened to me in Anilao, Batangas the weekend of 4th Sailboards San Jose Windsurfing Regatta. I was on audition for a hosting job for "Planet X," the new sports and lifestyle show on ABC 5.

It promised to be one hell of a weekend. First, there was the prospect of a TV job and, second, the chance to try out the exotic sport of windsurfing.

Along with the "Planet X" crew and resident host Olivia Richards, we hied off to Anilao aboard a sleek Ford Expedition. When we arrived at the Sailboards San Jose windsurfing resort, we were welcomed by event organizer Edsel Ochoa. He made things comfortable for us and, pretty soon, we settled into the laid-back beach atmosphere. The wind was blowing like there was no tomorrow, which we took as a good sign of things to come.

Then all of a sudden, as if to match our relaxed and pensive mood, the wind whittled down to a crawling breeze. What we thought was a temporary lull stretched long into the afternoon. We soon resigned ourselves to the probability that there was not going to be any competition for the rest of the day.

Instead of sulking about the weather, Olivia and I opted to try out the kayak, after which we were taught the basics of windsurfing. Heck, we were here for some extreme action, and there was no way the weather was going to ruin our weekend.

The dinner party later in the night was full of enthusiasm for the next day's race. Rules were finalized, contingencies were made. No one seemed to be bothered by the windless day that had just robbed everyone of a good time in the open sea. Consolation came in the form of good food, good music, booze and the company of an eclectic mix of people brought together by a common love for windsurfing, a sport with an emphasis on all things natural.

After being kept awake half the night by a merciless karaoke fanatic and a snoring cameraman, I woke up eager for things to finally pick up. I was disappointed as I peered out the window. There was still no wind. The competitors lazily lounged around, just passing time. Somehow, this was not the extreme weekend I had in mind.

We decided to push through with the interviews at the very least. We quickly got acquainted with the competitors and discovered a wide variety of windsurfers—from the weekend warriors to the serious national team members. But no matter how varied their skills were, they were all at the mercy of the dead wind.

Lean, mean machine

After breakfast, Olivia and I decided to test the waters once again with our basic windsurfing skills. The wind and sea were calm, which was bad for the experts but good for us beginners. Regardless of how new you are to the sport, you still feel the need for some speed, something which the teasing wind was not giving us.

As soon as we got back to the shore, our eyes gravitated to a lean and mean contraption we had been eyeing from day one: the jet ski.

Forget about natural sailing power. A gas-guzzling speed machine was what we needed to set the mood for the day. In a matter of minutes, we were off and charging into the sea, howling like deranged convicts on a prison break. We took turns driving the machine like kids sharing an ice cream cone.

After a few minutes, we went back to shore to pick up cameraman Mike Alfanta and take him along for a ride. A chorus of three wailing souls and the powerful roar of the jet ski engine permeated the serene waters of Anilao.

We took turns driving the jet ski and switched positions in the middle of the ocean. There was something wrong with the way we were changing our seating arrangement every minute or so, but we couldn't care less. We were having a great time. There were no lanes, no speed limit and no rules. It was the extreme adventure we were waiting for.

When my turn came, I immediately went full throttle. The sound of two screaming passengers was like music to my ears. This was only the second time I rode a jet ski in my life, but I was gaining confidence with every turn and every maneuver. For a neophyte driver with two passengers, this was very dangerous.

Reality bites

I can still play back the exact moment in my mind. I took a sharp turn to the left just as we hit a small wave. It was as if everything was in slow motion as we careened to the side and eventually tipped over into the sea. The sensation of being underwater—even for just a brief instant—was scary because we were in the middle of the ocean. Surfacing only confirmed what I had expected: The jet ski had tipped over.

The situation was almost funny in a way, that is, until I saw Mike struggling in the water. He was in a state of panic, and was desperate for something to hold on to. Unfortunately, the nearest thing Mike could get his hands on for support was Olivia, who was doing a good job of staying afloat. Olivia struggled to keep her head up as Mike clung desperately to her for survival. She

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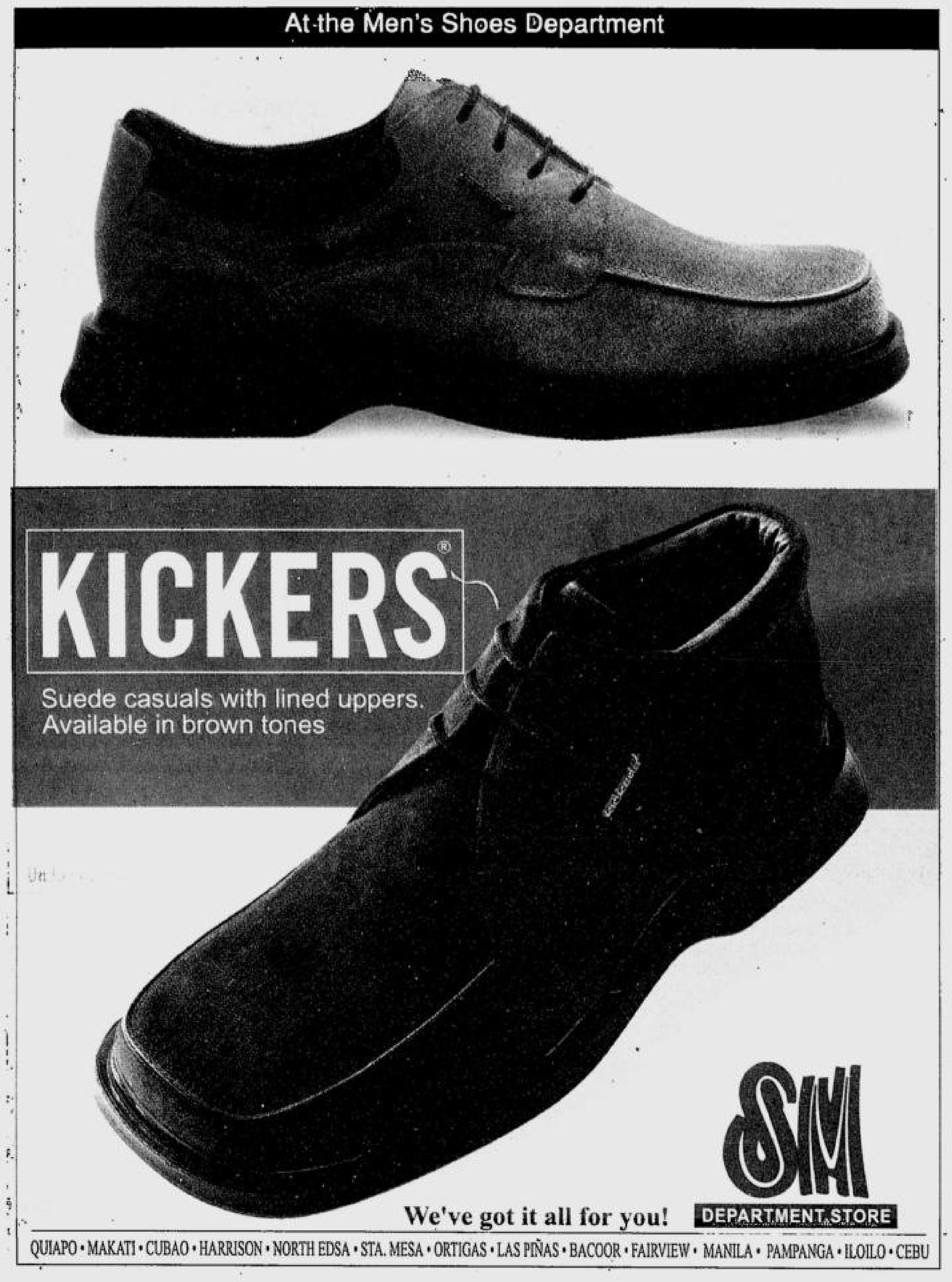
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While you are sleeping

WANT to gain weight, age faster and become the office grouch, not to mention an emotional wreck? Then deprive yourself of sleep on a daily basis. Just one or two hours less than what you need will do the trick.

One third of our lives are spent sleeping, and for good reason. Our body is like a battery whose energy is drained during the day and needs recharging at night. Sleep is as vital and necessary to our survival as air, food and water. Another way of looking at it is to imagine you have an "energy bank account." No matter how small the difference, you can't keep making more withdrawals than deposits. Eventually, you will become bankrupt.

Sleep deprivation

Sleep deprivation or sleep debt is not just missing sleep once in a while. It occurs when you lack sleep on a consistent basis. The ill effects of sleep deprivation are not obvious immediately, but your body, mind and spirit will eventually pay the price. The quality of your school or office work as well as performance in sports and exercise will be affected.

When you don't get enough sleep, you are grouchy, slow-witted, unable to make good decisions or cope with problems properly, slow to react, absent-minded, forgetful, etc. Constant lack of sleep is a serious matter because it can weaken your immune system.

How do you know you are getting enough sleep?

Most adults need eight hours; some six and some unusual people need only four. How can you tell how much you need? The rule of thumb is that you can wake up without an alarm clock, you don't get sleepy during the day and have no problems falling asleep at night. Ideally, you should be asleep within 15 minutes. If you fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow, it could be a sign that you are sleep-deprived.

Dr. William Dement, a pioneer in the field of sleep research in the University of Stanford, says, "If you get drowsy or sleepy anytime during the day, you are by definition sleep-deprived."

Stages of sleep

There are two types of sleep—REM and Non-REM sleep. REM (Rapid Eye Movement) Sleep is also called "dream sleep." It is a time of mental renewal. Even though your muscles are paralyzed (good thing, too, otherwise you would act out your dreams), your mind is active and your blood pressure and heart rate rise. Non-REM Sleep is called "deep sleep." This is the most physically restful phase of sleep. Both your body and brain slow down.

Dream sleep and deep sleep alternate within five to six 90-minute cycles. The dream phase gets longer as morning approaches. A person who has had six hours of uninterrupted sleep will often feel more refreshed than someone who has had eight hours of sleep but was awakened three times by text messages from an insomniac friend. This is because the first person had at least four complete cycles of sleep while the second person had incomplete sleep cycles.

Age and sleep

Human beings need varying amounts of sleep, depending on their age. According to the US National Sleep Foundation, toddlers need 11 hours plus a two-hour nap during the day, preschoolers need 11-12 hours, school-age children need 10 hours, teens need an average of nine hours and adults need an average of eight hours.

The human growth hormone (HGH) is released during rest and sleep. Is it any wonder then that young children need the most amount of sleep?

As we age, we either sleep fewer hours or we sleep the same hours but the quality is no longer the same because we are awaken more often. Just like the chicken or the egg joke, scientists are still figuring out which comes first—do we age because we sleep less as we get older or do we sleep less because we are getting older?

One possible reason could have something to do with body temperature. The onset of sleepiness is associated with a drop in body temperature. Our bodies cool down as we get closer to our bedtime. Elderly people do not have as distinct a drop in body temperature as younger people, and this could cause the restless sleep. This is why exercise may help an older person sleep better at night. Since exercise creates internal heat, the body counterbalances the heat with a prolonged cooling down period that brings on that sleepy feeling.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

How exercise affects sleep

Studies suggest that regular exercise can induce deeper non-REM sleep, the most physically refreshing type of sleep. Participants in studies about how exercise affects sleep report falling asleep faster, sleeping longer and waking up less frequently during the night compared to when they did not exercise.

A single exercise session will not affect the way you sleep that night. To see a positive effect, exercise has to be done consistently. (Some scientists believe you should have sleeping problems to begin with. They say people with normal sleeping patterns will not see any additional benefits in their sleep from regular exercise.)

However, too much exercise will disturb your sleep patterns. In fact, sleeplessness is one of the classic signs of overtraining or excessive exercise.

An exercise prescription for better sleep would be to do some kind of moderate aerobic activity 20-30 minutes at least five times a week. However, you shouldn't work out one or two hours before your bedtime because it will keep you awake. One reason could be that the nervous system is overstimulated and takes some time to calm down. Another reason is that your body temperature stays elevated for a longer time and by the time it drops enough for you to get sleepy, the rooster is already crowing.

Then again, each person is different. Some people have absolutely no problems going off for a 30-minute run and then dozing off soon after they get home. Others are so sensitive that even a 5 p.m. workout will keep them awake that night.

How sleep affects exercise

Vigorous workouts and lack of sleep do not make good partners because sleep is when you repair muscle stress that has occurred during exercise. This is how the body gets stronger.

Dr. Michael Colgan, author of "Optimum Sports Nutrition," writes, "Bodily growth and repair occur only during rest or sleep, never during training." He mentions in his book that swimming great John Councilman of Indiana University would make his athletes sleep nine hours at night plus take a nap in the afternoon. The harder you train, the more sleep and rest you need to recover. Otherwise, you will fall victim to injury and overtraining.

Lack of sleep and overeating

Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher Judith Wurtman found that 90 percent of the nurses she studied who worked the night shift gained weight.

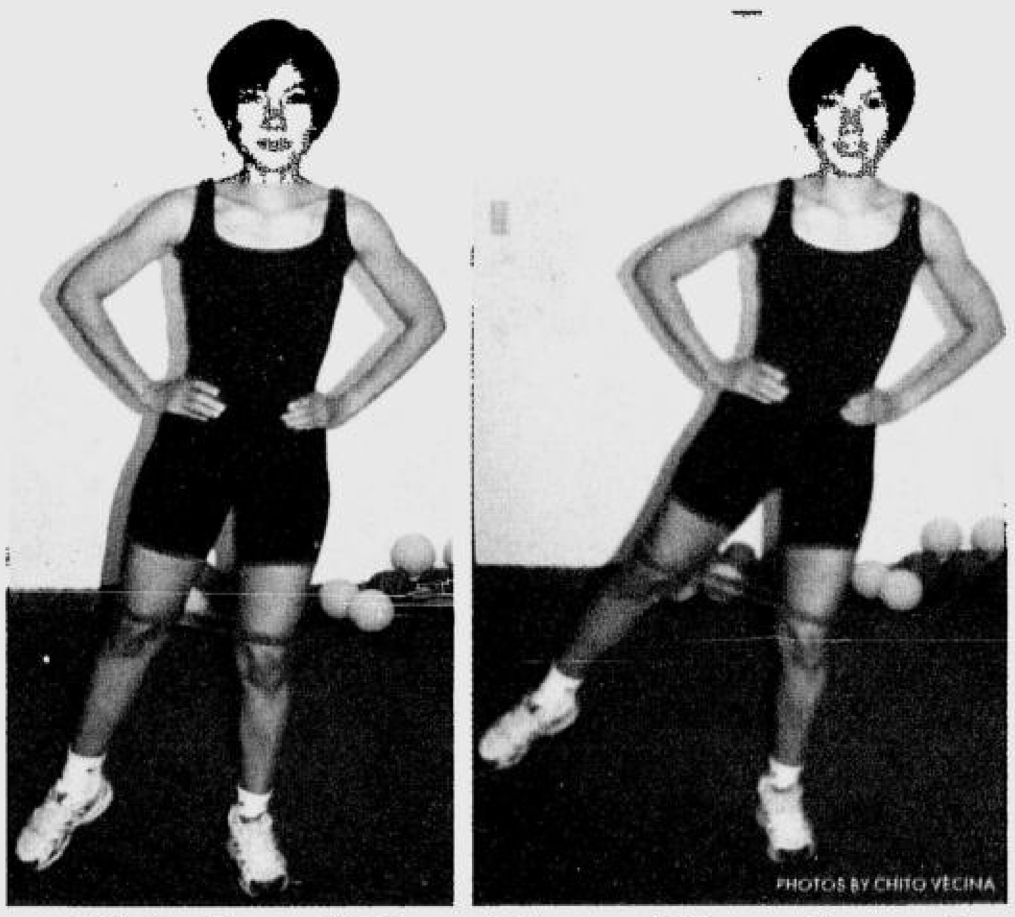
The nurses who did the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. graveyard shift gained more weight than those who did the 3-11 p.m. shift. One theory is that eating is the body's way to compensate for fatigue caused by lack of sleep. Another theory is that two compounds that improve immunity, interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor, increase when you sleep. They are also known to suppress appetite. So when you lack sleep, levels of these compounds decrease and you lose one of your natural means to keep your appetite in check.

Burning calories while sleeping

Well, of course, you burn calories while you are sleeping. In fact, you are burning calories right now as you are reading this article. The only time you don't burn any calories is when you are dead. Naturally, you burn much fewer calories while you are in la-la-land than when you are running on a treadmill. People with greater muscle mass will burn more calories than a person with less muscle mass because each pound of muscle requires 35 to 50 calories a day to maintain itself, so it is not an exaggeration to say that lifting weights can make you burn more calories even while you sleep.

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Side leg lift with rubber band

THIS exercise tightens and tones muscles in the hip and buttocks. The muscles of the leg you stand on while doing the exercise are also being strengthened.

Equipment:
Rubber band tied above the knees

Exercise technique:

1. Stand holding a wall or back of a sturdy chair if you feel you need help with your balance.
2. Lift your right leg sideways to about 45 degrees.
3. Slowly lower down.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions, then switch sides.

Performance tips:

1. Keep the toes and knee of the leg you are lifting facing forward. If you rotate your leg so the toes and knee are facing the ceiling, you will work the front of the thighs instead of the hip.
2. If you are using a wall or chair to steady your balance, hold it lightly and avoid leaning into it.
3. Avoid swinging the leg sideways. Move slowly by contracting the muscle first.
4. Keep your shoulders facing forward throughout the exercise. Avoid rotating at the waist.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions on each leg. This equals one set. Do one to three sets.

BEACHSIDE dining for windsurfers and "Planet X" crew while waiting for the wind. That's cameraman Mike Alfanta partly hidden at right.

Extremely lucky

(From page C1)

managed to wrestle herself free from his grip, which prompted Mike to lunge for me instead. The next thing I knew, I was underwater and struggling to reach the surface for a breath of air. It was a good thing that Mike eventually settled down, since I was ready to punch his lights out if the need arose. Mike would explain to us after it was all over that his legs were cramping up.

A drowning man's most powerful instinct is to pull himself up from the water—no matter who or what he pulls down to do so. The best thing to do in that situation is to try to knock him out of consciousness so you can save him. I was thankful not to have had to resort to that.

As we regained our bearings, Olivia suggested that we try to get the jet ski right side up. This proved to be a futile effort as we were not aware of the proper way to tip a jet ski back over (the instructions are actually located at the back of the jet ski, we found out later). We struggled awkwardly with the machine as the waves pounded us from every direction. The more we tried, the more we seemed to be struggling with the machine's weight. By this time, the jet ski had taken in water and was slowly sinking.

Look of terror

Perhaps the most frightening moment for me came when I saw the absolute terror on Olivia's face as the jet ski's nose pointed skyward, much like the Titanic in its final moments. We were around 400 meters from the shore, and the jet ski was our only lifeline. I dreaded seeing panic on Olivia's face, knowing that I could only save one person. Having two panic-stricken persons meant that one of us—if not all—might not make it.

And then for the first time I realized that I was wearing a floatation vest (which, in retrospect, was perhaps the only right thing I did before boarding the jet ski). I quickly took it off and gave it to Olivia, who was still insistent on somehow finding a way to tip the jet ski over. Her gung-ho perseverance under the circumstances gave me hope. I frantically waved to the shore for help, hoping someone would be able to spot us.

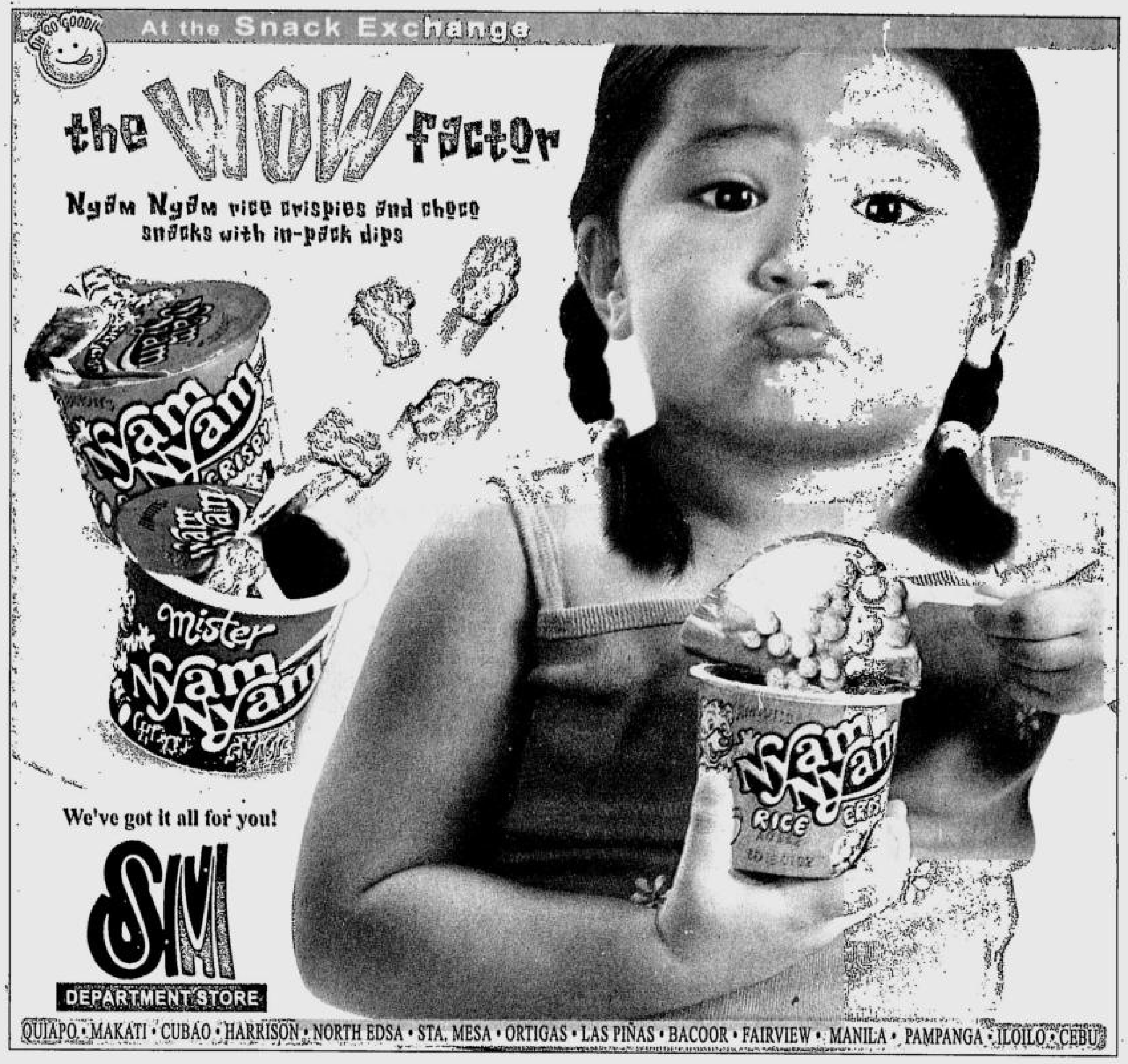
By this time, only about 2 ft of the jet ski's nose was above water. We waited for what seemed like an eternity for help to come, before we spotted a familiar sight moving in our direction from a distance. It was a windsurfer! Help had finally arrived.

As the windsurfer steadily glided in our direction, a sense of relief pervaded over us. As soon as he reached our location, he quickly dove into the water to try to salvage the jet ski, while the three of us held on to his windsurfing board. We were safe at last.

As we floated in the middle of the ocean with rescue teams coming at us from different directions, we consoled ourselves with the fact that we were still alive, and that we now knew better. In our search for the extreme thrill, we put ourselves in extreme circumstances. It was one thing to do something extremely adventurous and another thing to do something utterly stupid. We were lucky that I decided to wear a vest "just in case," and that the uncooperative wind started blowing at the exact time we were in trouble, enabling the windsurfer to reach us just in time. We were extremely lucky.

As we prepared to make our way back to shore, I suddenly realized that I didn't even know the name of the windsurfer who saved our lives. As he went back to his board, I thanked him, shook his hand, and asked for his name. "Angel," he said, with a smile I will never forget.

E-mail the author at dja_ph@yahoo.com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HOW TO JOIN

1. This sales promotion is open to all Metrobank E.T. depositors. To join, a depositor has to use his Metrobank E.T. card to pay for his purchases at stores and supermarkets accredited with the BancNet Payment System.
2. For every ₱500-single payment using his Metrobank E.T. card, an eligible depositor will earn a computer-generated raffle number.
3. RAFFLE DRAWS

a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	NO. OF WINNERS CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15,2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15
c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City Time: 3:00 pm				

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.
5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.
6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account; winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.
7. A participant can win only once in each draw.
8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw.
9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand Draw).
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:

    Metrobank Product Management Dept. 11th Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City (for Metro Manila winners) or at the Metrobank branch specified in the registered notice (for provincial winners).
12. Promo period: March 15 - August 15, 2001.
13. Employees of Metrobank, its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.
14. The decision of the promo organizers, in concurrence with the DTI, is final.

METROBANK E.T.
Pay cash without the hassles of carrying cash.

BANCNET PAYMENT SYSTEM ACCREDITED ESTABLISHMENTS:

ALABANG TOWN CENTER - Cinderella · Esprit ALIMALL - Cinderella · Esprit · Rustan's Expressions EVER COMMONWEALTH - Department Store, Supermarket & Appliance EVER GRAND CENTRAL - Abenson's · Cinderella · Ever Grand Central Department Store & Supermarket EVER ORTIGAS - Abenson's · Ever Ortigas Department Store & Supermarket EVER RECTO - Department Store & Supermarket FARMER'S PLAZA - Farmart Department Store & Supermarket · Rustan's Expressions FESTIVAL MALL - Shop Wise · Western Marketing · Family Drugstore GLORIETTA - Abenson's QUAD I · Cinderella QUAD III · Esprit QUAD III · Guess? QUAD III GREENBELT - Automatic Center · Cinderella HARRISON PLAZA - Abenson's · Guess? · Rustan's Supermarket · SM Department Store ISETANN RECTO - Department Store & Supermarket LANDMARK - Anson's PLAZA FAIR LACSON - Department Store & Supermarket PLAZA FAIR PASONG TAMO - Department Store & Supermarket ROBINSON'S ERMITA - Guess? · Robinson's Ermita Department Store & Supermarket ROBINSON'S GALLERIA - Anson's · Cebu Air, Inc. · Cinderella · Esprit · Robinson's Galleria Department Store & Supermarket SAVE MORE MARIKINA - Family Drugstore · Save More Supermarket SM BACOOR - Family Drugstore A & B · Health & Beauty · SM Bacoor Department Store & Supermarket SM CENTERPOINT - Family Drugstore · Guess? · Health & Beauty · Men's Studio · Seventeen for Gals · SM Sta. Mesa Department Store & Supermarket SM CITY NORTH EDSA - Abenson's · Ace Hardware · Cinderella · Esprit · Family Drugstore · Health & Beauty · SM North EDSA Department Store & Supermarket · SM Supersale SM CUBAO - Ace Hardware · Family Drugstore · Health & Beauty · SM Cubao Department Store SM FAIRVIEW - Family Drugstore · Health & Beauty · SM Fairview Department Store & Supermarket SM MEGAMALL - Ace Hardware · American Discount · Cinderella · Esprit · Family Drugstore · Guess? · Health & Beauty · SM Megamall Department Store & Supermarket · Toy Kingdom · Western Marketing SM MANILA - Family Drugstore · SM Manila Department Store & Supermarket SM QUIAPO - Department Store SM SOUTHMALL - American Discount · Automatic Center · Family Drugstore · Guess? · Health & Beauty · SM Las Piñas Department Store & Supermarket · Toy Kingdom SHANGRI-LA PLAZA - Rustan's Supermarket · Sisley · True Value STAR MALL - Robinson's Shaw · Rustan's Expressions STA. LUCIA EAST MALL - Abenson's · Cinderella · Home Gallery · Planet Toys · Sta. Lucia Department Store & Supermarket TUTUBAN CENTERMALL - Automatic Center · Goldilock's Bake Shop · Robinson's Tutuban Department Store & Supermarket WALTERMART CALAMBA - Supermarket & Appliance WALTERMART LOTUS MALL - Supermarket WALTERMART PEARL PLAZA -Supermarket WALTERMART DASMARIÑAS - Supermarket & Appliance OTHERS - Anson's Pasay Road · Cebu Air, Inc Manila Midtown · Cherry Foodarama Congressional · Crepe Pag-Asa · Farmart F. Torres Department Store & Supermarket · Family Drugstore Kalentong · Goldilock's Bake Shop Park Square & Pasay Road · IMART- Makati Ave. · Int'l Container Terminal Services, Inc. · Isetann Department Store & Supermarket (Cubao & Carriedo) · Parco EDSA & Quezon Ave. · Robinson's Los Baños Supermarket · Rustan's Expressions (Fairview, Forbes, Libertad, Marikina & Taytay) · Rustan's Supermarket (Cubao & Makati) · SOGO EDSA Pioneer · Sure Value · Uniwide (Caloocan, EDSA Central, Las Piñas, Libis, Novaliches & Sucat) · Waltermart (Carmona-Cavite, E. Rodriguez, Pasong Tamo, Rosario-Cavite & Sta. Rosa)

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0097 Series of 2001

You're in good hands with METROBANK

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices, and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: http://www.metrobank.com.ph; E-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.

A proud member of BancNet

MARLBORO ADVENTURE EDITION NISSAN PATROL
Canon IXUS X-1 CAMERAS
ERICSSON R310 MOBILE PHONES
THE GEAR
THE GE
OVER 400 ADVENTURERS
CONGRATU

Winner of
MARLBORO EDITION NISSAN PATROL
LEONIDA R. ORILLO

#12 Zone 1 Balatas Naga City

Winners of
BOMBARDIER ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES

BANDAO, WILLIAM
Sta. Cym. (Guard)
Tala Post Office
Caloocan City

SANGREO, SHERLY Z.
63 Balagtas Blvd.
San Pablo City

BIOL, FEDALYN P.
B-3 [illegible] Vamenta Estate Barra
Opol Misamis Oriental

Winners of
GIANT RAINIER MOUNTAIN BIKES

- **Apeton, Eddie Brando** #10 St. Luke Ave. Dona Juliana Heights Bacolod
- **Bacud, Corina S.** [illegible] Las Piñas City
- **Balan, Carmelita V.** [illegible] Zamboanga
- **Basit, Gil G.** [illegible] Brgy. 8 Daet, Camarines Norte
- **Bolivar, Raquel** [illegible] Mac Road, Davao
- **Brimon, Rolando B.** [illegible] Legaspi
- **Cortez, Eriel A.** [illegible] Rizal St. [illegible] Silang, Cavite
- **Cruz, Danilo O.** [illegible] Diliman, Quezon City
- **Dela Cruz, Ronald** [illegible] Bacoor, Cavite
- **La Rosa, Cherry F.** [illegible] Parañaque City
- **Magdiong, Ramiro** [illegible]
- **Marquez, Luzviminda B.** [illegible]
- **Mendoza, Jerry Norman E.** [illegible] Caloocan City
- **Navarro, Herminio** [illegible]
- **Parong, Alexius Martin G.** [illegible] Novaliches, Q.C.
- **Perez, Helen Grace D.** [illegible] Negros Occidental
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Rodillas, Ma. Dalia** [illegible]
- **Sevilla, Ludivina G.** [illegible]
- [illegible] Muntinlupa City
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Velez, Eduardo M.** [illegible] Dasmariñas, Cavite

CANON IXUS X-1 CAMERAS

- **Abella, Oscar P.** [illegible]
- **Abdulpattu, Cecile Escondo** [illegible] San Pablo, Laguna
- **Ablo, Ronnel P.** [illegible]
- **Agner, Alberto** [illegible]
- **Ancajas, Rhodilyn L.** [illegible] Quezon City
- **Arinto, Jessie Boy** [illegible] Davao
- **Arquiza, Elinor M.** [illegible] Zamboanga
- **Atiano, Norma M.** [illegible]
- **Averia, Wilson** [illegible] Democracia St. [illegible]
- **Ayeras, Dennis B.** [illegible]
- **Bailo, Gaudencio Abraham** [illegible]
- **Baldago, Efren** [illegible]
- **Baylon, Nancy C.** [illegible] Davao
- **Benjamin, Alberto V.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Blanca, Norhato P.** [illegible]
- **Bonilla, Angel M.** [illegible]
- **Brondial, William** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Bunyi, Reynaldo** [illegible] Muntinlupa City
- [illegible]
- [illegible] Zamboanga
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Carlos, Rosalina C.** [illegible]
- **Carmelotes, Lolita D.** [illegible] Bulacan
- **Castillo, Dominador C.** [illegible] Batangas
- **Chua, Rosalina F.** 120 Zuno St. [illegible]
- **Cortez, Alfredo M.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Cura, Vivian M.** [illegible]

- **Custodio, Lope L.** [illegible] Makati City
- **David, Mario C.** [illegible] Parañaque City
- **De Vera, Lambert** [illegible] Laguna
- **Dela Cruz, Alma B.** [illegible] Bacolod
- **Destreza, Paz T.** Rizal St. Tuy, Batangas
- **Docot, Salvacion T.** [illegible]
- **Enriquez, Rica Liza** [illegible] San Pablo, Laguna
- **Enriquez, Rolando V.** [illegible] Laguna
- **Espulgar, Reynaldo D.** [illegible]
- **Esto, Josephine P.** [illegible] Dasmariñas, Cavite
- **Fernandez Jr., Ferdinand** [illegible] Mandaluyong City
- [illegible]
- **Gaerlan, Conrado T.** [illegible] Cavite
- **Gerardino, Steven L.** [illegible] Iloilo
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Guerra, Israel** [illegible]
- **Gutierrez, Zosimo C.** [illegible] Batangas
- **Hernandez, Roger F.** [illegible] Murphy Cubao, Quezon City
- **Inot, Angelina** [illegible] Las Piñas City
- **Intal, Sofia L.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Isleta, Lyndon A.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Llave, Joel G.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Maloloyon, Rosalyn** [illegible]
- **Medrano, Romel T.** [illegible]
- **Orada, Olivia B.** [illegible]
- **Oro, Eduardo T.** [illegible]
- **Ortega, Roxanne J.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Padilla, Nicolas B.** [illegible]
- **Pangilinan, Maria Luz** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- **Quiñones, Daniel** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- [illegible] Valenzuela City
- [illegible]
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- [illegible] Muntinlupa City
- **Santiago, Enrico V.** [illegible] Pasay City
- **Santos, Ronald C.** [illegible]
- **Sevilla, Florencio** [illegible]
- **Silva Jr., Orlando** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Somera, Rosalio C.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Tapuz, Floyd T.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- **Torres, Nilo M.** [illegible] Manila
- **Torres, Gina C.** [illegible] Manila
- **Torres, Margarita D.** [illegible] San Pablo, Laguna
- **Valiente, Dana C.** [illegible] Pasig City
- **Vergara, Danilo S.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Yulo, Antonio T.** [illegible] Bacolod [illegible] Negros Occidental
- [illegible]

CASIO G-SHOCK WATCHES

- **Abueva, Honey Marsha S.** [illegible]
- **Agcaoili, Soledad A.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Almazan, Sheryll Lourdes M.** [illegible] Manila
- **Alumno Jr., Mariano M.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Angeles, Sheila V.** [illegible] Quezon City
- [illegible]
- **Asis, Pablo** [illegible]
- **Astronomo, Raul A.** [illegible]
- [illegible] Zamboanga
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Benjamin, Ana Liza L.** [illegible] Muntinlupa City
- [illegible]

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Bolivar, Emily J.** [illegible]
- **Bonifacio, Jessie R.** [illegible] Batangas
- **Borromeo, Antonio** [illegible]
- **Bugarin, Rocky E.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Cabrera, Henry P.** [illegible]
- **Carandang, Marc** [illegible]
- **Carpena, Romeo** [illegible]
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- [illegible]
- [illegible] Quezon City
- [illegible]
- **Concepcion, James Q.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Dalaguete, Lonny B.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- **Dela Cruz, German B.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Digla, Aurora G.** [illegible]
- **Doron, Arnulfo C.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Eborra, Benjamin** [illegible]
- **Echavez, Dalton** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Estabillo, Roland** [illegible]
- **Estioko, Peter Anthony R.** [illegible]
- **Estoya, Faustino** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Garcia, Bernardo B.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Go, Jane R.** [illegible]
- **Hernandez, Barbara L.** [illegible]
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- **Loria, Elizabeth** [illegible]
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- [illegible]
- **Martinez Jr., Adriano** [illegible]
- **Masangkay, Conchita** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- **Mercado, Emmanuel M.** [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- **Nolasco, Teresita** [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- **Tee, Helen** [illegible]
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- [illegible]

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 02 L.S. [illegible]

Governmen
Cigarette smoking is da

HE
AR
ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE
RUDY PROJECT
SHADES
GIANT
RAINIER MOUNTAIN BIKES
G-SHOCK
CASIO G-SHOCK
WATCHES

S NOW HAVE THE GEAR!

ULATIONS!

ERICSSON R310 MOBILE PHONES

1. **Acosta, Roberto C.**
#1306 F. Hocson St., Sampaloc, Manila
2. **Abuel, Danilo A.**
134 Tagarao St., Iyam, Lucena City
3. **Adino, Calixtrato E.**
Phase 1 14 Jade St., Matina, Davao
4. **Agaid, Catherine B.**
[illegible]

42. **Carmona, Antonio M.**
Purok Katilingban, Bacolod, Negros Occ.
43. **Castillo, Raul N.**
175 Vista Verde Ave., Ext. II, Cainta, Rizal
44. **Catedrilla Jr., William O.**
Blk. 11 Lot 43, Salinas Bacoor, Cavite
45. **Celimen, Julito R.**
#2 Mabulo, Naga
46. **Chang, William S.**
Blk. O Lot 3, Dasmariñas, Cavite
47. **Chang, Artemius**
[illegible]

87. **Huhahib, Melita**
1020 A.V. Ramon Ave., Guad, Cebu
88. **Jeremias, Jun M.**
192 NPC Compound, Putsan, Towi. Albay
89. **Jimena, Jena S.**
43 Rizal St., Silay, Negros Occidental
90. **Jimenez, Carmell C.**
#377 Purok Acacia, Basud, Camarines Norte
91. **Jumala, Norkisa M.**
#10-B-55 Manki, Zamboanga
92. **Laureta, Wilfredo S.**
[illegible]

134. **Rocamora, Owens T.**
B 11 L 10 Katapatan Subd., Cabuyao, Laguna
135. **Roldan, Esmerita N.**
196 J.P. Rizal St., Makati City
136. **Rosales, Ronaldo M.**
Palingowak, San Juan, Batangas
137. **Saavedra, Rodrigo O.**
Mercedes Crossing, Mulu-Muluan, Zamboanga
138. **Sanchez, Clemen**
4093 Jesus St., Pulung Bulo, Angeles
139. **Sanchez, Edwin**
[illegible]

RUDY PROJECT SHADES

[illegible]

28. **Concepcion, Mary Grace**
B84 L4 and 6 M. Moran St. BF Resort Vill., Las Piñas City
29. **Cuaycong, Cerila**
Ph-5 A Pkg-1, B26, L20 Katarong St., Bagong Silang, Caloocan City
30. **De Taza, Juanito S.**
#01 Zone 7 Camp Evangelista Patag, Cagayan de Oro
31. **De Vega, Roberto A.**
Brgy. Poblacion, San Antonio, Quezon
32. **Dela Cruz Jr., Gavino P.**
[illegible]

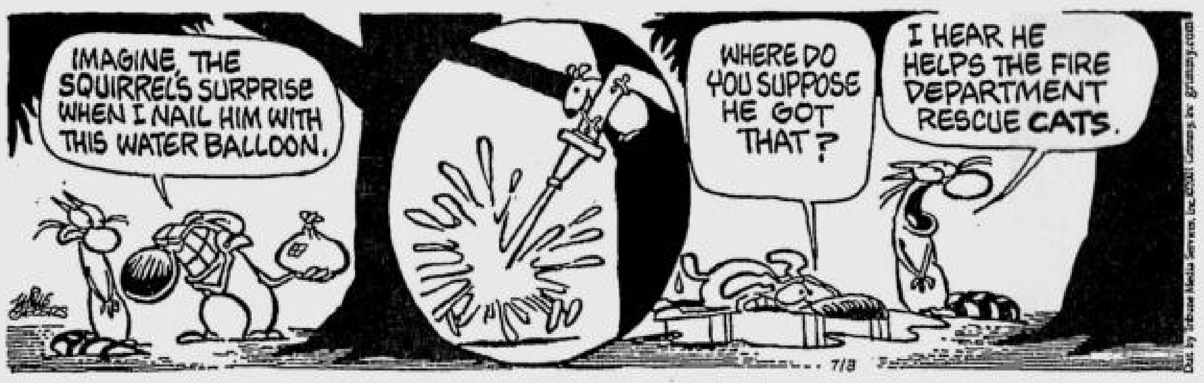
67. **Merlin, Romeo H.**
B1-A, L4, Ph-2 Sheet 2, Pacita Complex II, San Pedro, Laguna
68. **Morelos, Cathy C.**
92-A Schetelig Ave., San Pablo, Laguna
69. **Natividad, Alvin A.**
B26 L Ph I-C San Lorenzo South Sta. Rosa Laguna
70. **Noble, Noel C.**
Kil. 5 Linquiaco Drive Junob, Dumaguete
71. **Ordas, Margarita P.**
[illegible]

GEAR UP AND HEAD OUT

nt Warning:
ngerous to your health.

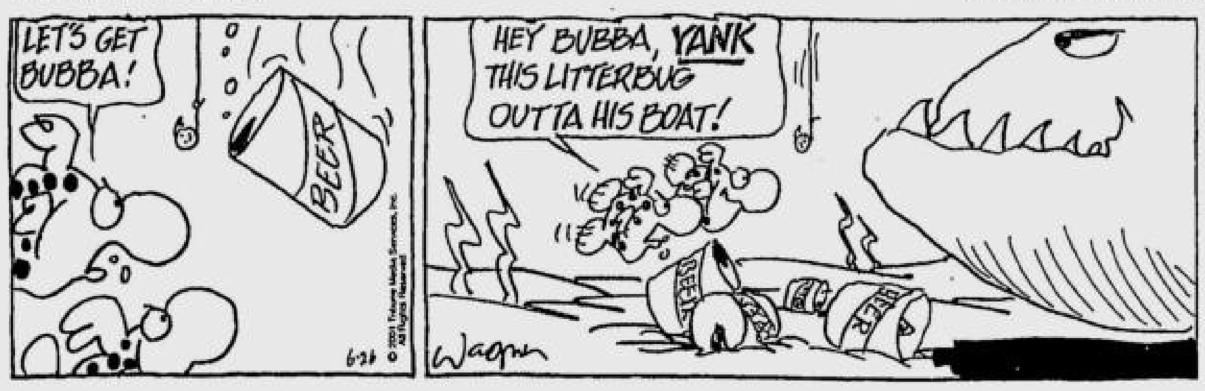
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


IMAGINE, THE SQUIRREL'S SURPRISE WHEN I NAIL HIM WITH THIS WATER BALLOON.
WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE HE GOT THAT?
I HEAR HE HELPS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE CATS.
7/3

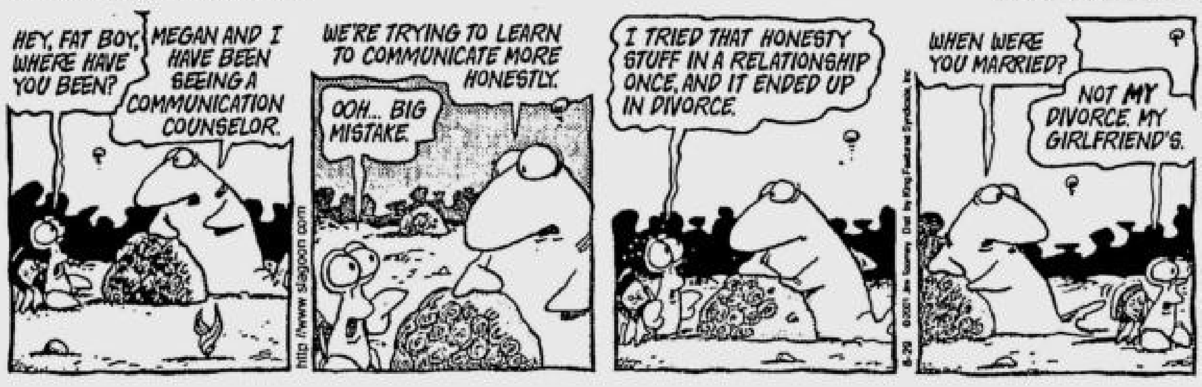
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


LET'S GET BUBBA!
BEER
HEY BUBBA, YANK THIS LITTERBUG OUTTA HIS BOAT!
6-26
Wagner

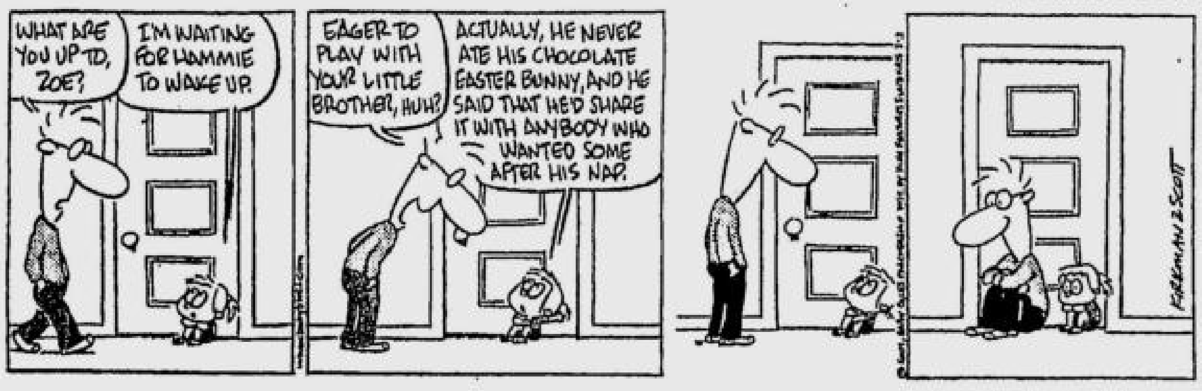
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, FAT BOY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
MEGAN AND I HAVE BEEN SEEING A COMMUNICATION COUNSELOR.
WE'RE TRYING TO LEARN TO COMMUNICATE MORE HONESTLY.
OOH... BIG MISTAKE.
I TRIED THAT HONESTY STUFF IN A RELATIONSHIP ONCE, AND IT ENDED UP IN DIVORCE.
WHEN WERE YOU MARRIED?
NOT MY DIVORCE. MY GIRLFRIEND'S.
http://www.slagoon.com

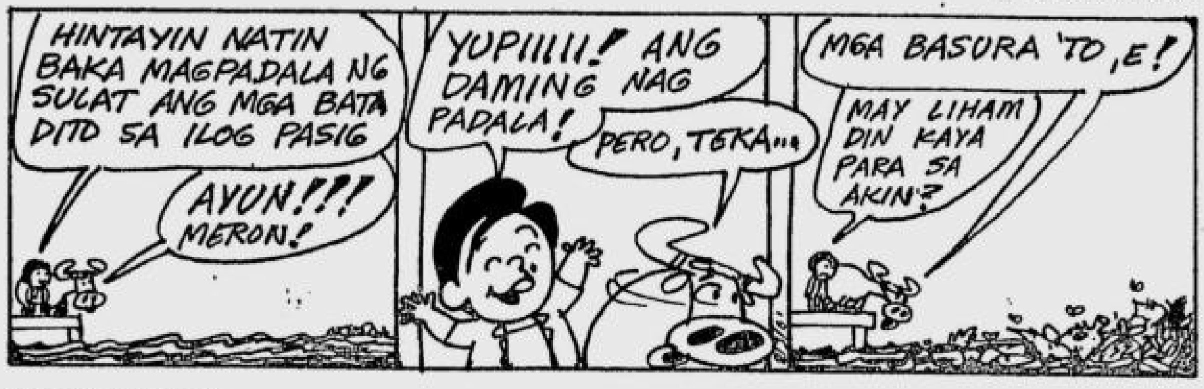
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ZOE?
I'M WAITING FOR HAMMIE TO WAKE UP.
EAGER TO PLAY WITH YOUR LITTLE BROTHER, HUH?
ACTUALLY, HE NEVER ATE HIS CHOCOLATE EASTER BUNNY, AND HE SAID THAT HE'D SHARE IT WITH ANYBODY WHO WANTED SOME AFTER HIS NAP.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

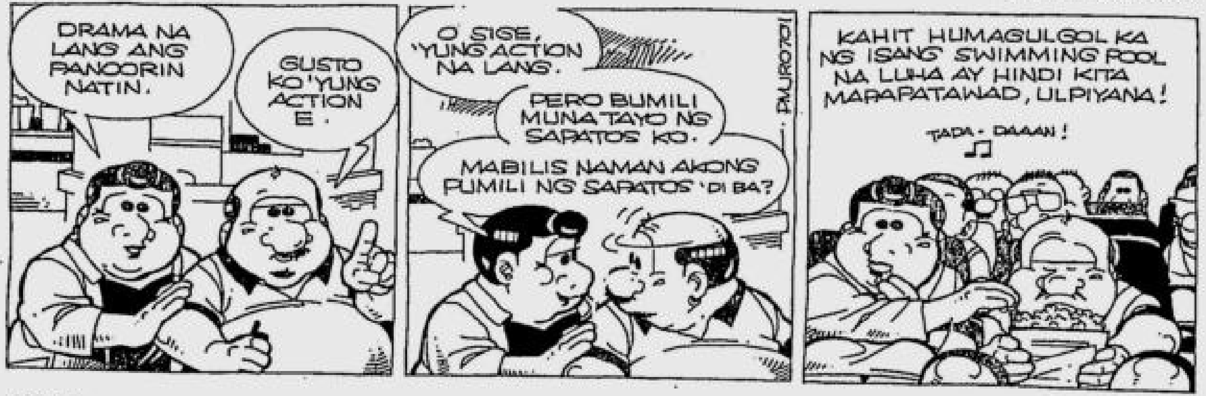
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINTAYIN NATIN BAKA MAGPADALA NG SULAT ANG MGA BATA DITO SA ILOG PASIG
AYUN!!! MERON!
YUPIIIII! ANG DAMING NAG PADALA!
PERO, TEKA...
MGA BASURA 'TO, E!
MAY LIHAM DIN KAYA PARA SA AKIN?

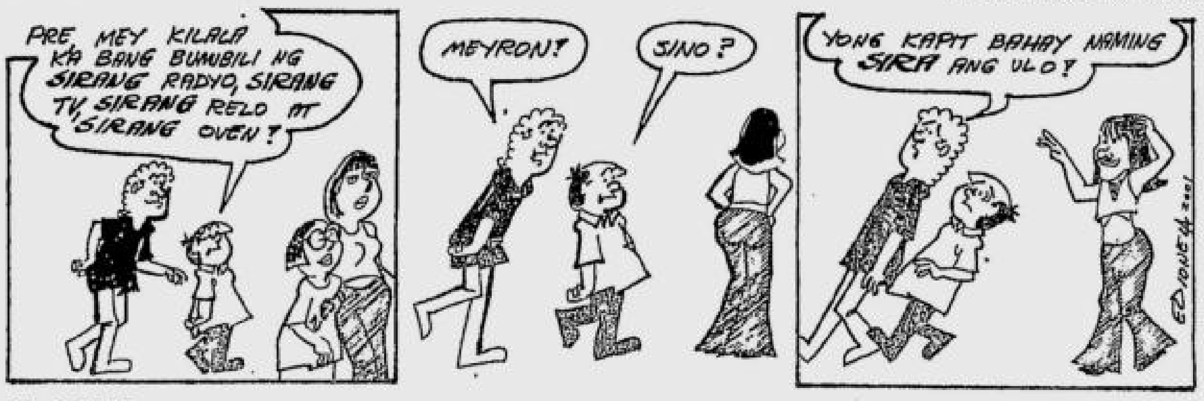
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DRAMA NA LANG ANG PANOORIN NATIN.
GUSTO KO 'YUNG ACTION E.
O SIGE, 'YUNG ACTION NA LANG.
PERO BUMILI MUNA TAYO NG SAPATOS KO.
MABILIS NAMAN AKONG PUMILI NG SAPATOS 'DI BA?
PMJR07301
KAHIT HUMAGULGOL KA NG ISANG SWIMMING POOL NA LUHA AY HINDI KITA MAPAPATAWAD, ULPIYANA!
TADA - DAAAN!

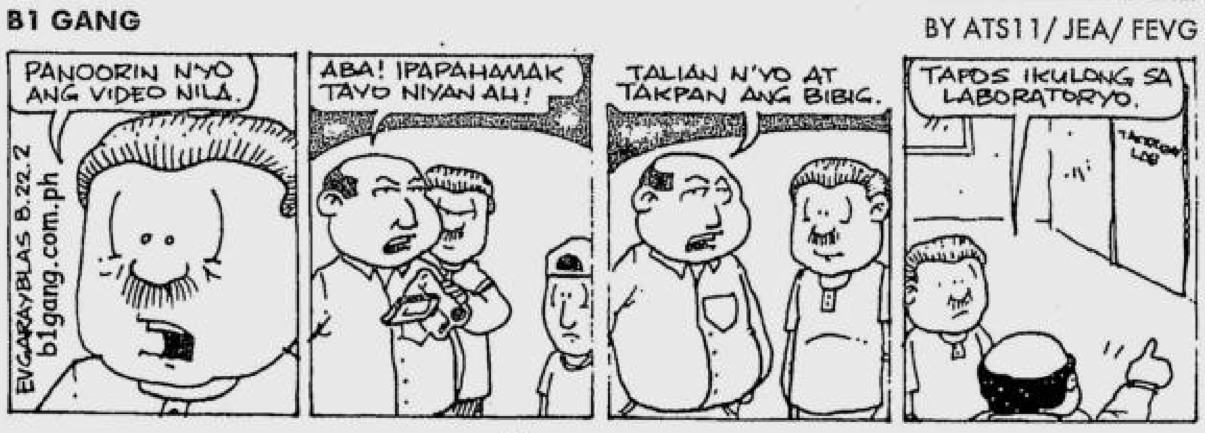
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRE, MEY KILALA KA BANG BUMIBILI NG SIRANG RADYO, SIRANG TV, SIRANG RELO AT SIRANG OVEN?
MEYRON!
SINO?
YONG KAPIT BAHAY NAMING SIRA ANG ULO!
EDIONELA 2001

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PANOORIN N'YO ANG VIDEO NILA.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.22.2
b1gang.com.ph
ABA! IPAPAHAMAK TAYO NIYAN AH!
TALIAN N'YO AT TAKPAN ANG BIBIG.
TAPOS IKULONG SA LABORATORYO.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: J.K. Rowling, Geraldine Chaplin, Wesley Snipes, Dean Cain, William Bennett

Happy Birthday: You know exactly how to handle others with your sympathetic yet stern manner and will help the ones you care so much about. You will be energetic, aggressive and to the point when necessary. This is the year to achieve your current goals and to set new ones. Your numbers: 5, 19, 27, 34, 45, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look into vacation spots that will provide warm weather and recreational activities for the whole family. This is a good day to set goals and break bad habits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be in the mood to spend more than you should. If you question whether you can afford something, it is probably best not to buy it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your energy will be best spent contributing to interesting organizations. You will attract someone intriguing by turning on the charm and appearing confident.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make progress at work by refraining from idle chatter or disagreeing with your boss. Focus on your own projects.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be taking a greater interest in creative work that will allow you to express yourself. Talk to someone who may be able to shed some light about getting into free-lance work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't count on a unanimous vote at home. You can bet that someone who lives with you will be less than supportive of your direction and the changes you want to implement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make travel arrangements today. Your ability to see things clearly and come up with solutions to other people's problems will put you in their good books.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your mind is on your money. Look into business deals or career positions that will help you leap into a higher earning bracket. You're determined to do well, and with that attitude you will.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be touchy concerning your personal life. If you haven't been paying enough attention to your mate, you will hear about it. Don't try to deny it; just do something about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your concern will be with those less fortunate than yourself. Emotional memories may surface, causing problems in your relationship. Let go of the past if you wish to smooth things out.

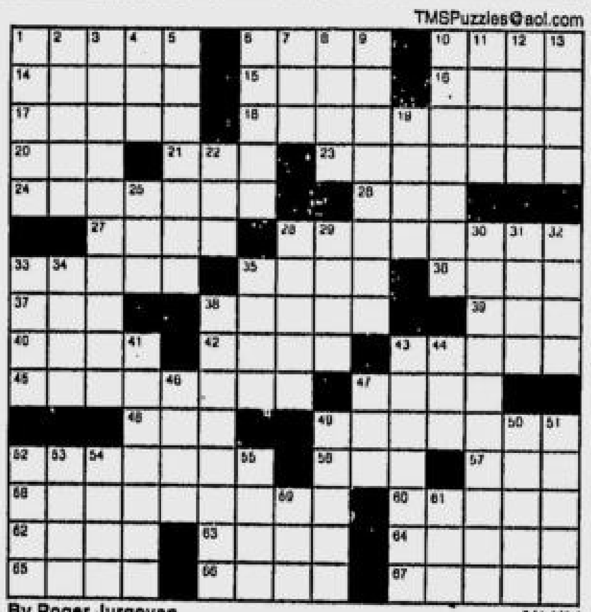
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will work well with detail today. Enlist the help of peers in order to meet deadlines. Getting together socially with colleagues or clients may be worthwhile.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Career changes made today will backfire. Do not make decisions regarding your personal life. It's a better idea to ride with the tide and avoid making rash alterations that you'll regret.

Birthday Baby: You love to wander. Adventure and excitement are your prime concern as a thrill-seeker. You're a natural performer, become bored easily and should never be left with too little to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

6/14/01

ACROSS
1 Rubber base
6 Repast
10 Flit
14 Not quite right
15 Gumbo veggie
16 Composer Stravinsky
17 City in the Texas Panhandle
18 Make worse
20 Drug info org.
21 Young louse
23 Heads side of a coin
24 Disciplinarian's letters?
26 Above, to poets
27 Ancient temple
28 Least populated
33 Loses footing
35 South African pioneer
36 Montreal ballplayer
37 "__ the season..."
38 Worked on nails
39 Hanoi holiday
40 Abominable snowman
42 Smell
43 After: Fr.
45 Traps
47 Vast landmass
48 Compete
49 Lawyer's letters?
52 Unfavorable
56 Fled
57 401K kin
58 Bedtime story
60 Palm fruits
62 For pity's sake!
63 Cable stn.
64 Sanctify
65 Stir up
66 Russo of "Rocky and Bullwinkle"
67 Spacek of "Coal Miner's Daughter"

DOWN
1 Drink like a cat
2 Pile up
3 Percussionists
4 6th sense
5 Coach's letters?
6 Castles' defenses
7 Med. lines
8 Jason's ship
9 Port
10 Varied
11 Gelling agent
12 Molders
13 Timber-to-be
19 Strongly assert
22 Brain figs.
25 Snooze
28 Singular performances
29 Gaze
30 Gets a criminal transferred
31 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
32 Kiddies
33 Eyelid problem
34 Property claim
35 Wait
38 Park ranger
41 Something opposite
43 Scholar's letters?
44 Wrestling success
46 Ethereal
47 Comparison phrase
49 Rich or Worth
50 Shock or lock
51 Pert
52 At a distance
53 Painter Salvador
54 Small container
55 Relieve
59 Med. asst.
61 Legendary heavyweight

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	D	E	■	A	T	B	A	T	■	A	N	N	A
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G	A	I	L	■	M	A	R	I	E	■	A	R	I	A
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S	T	Y	L	I	S	H	■	■	A	A	A	■	■	■
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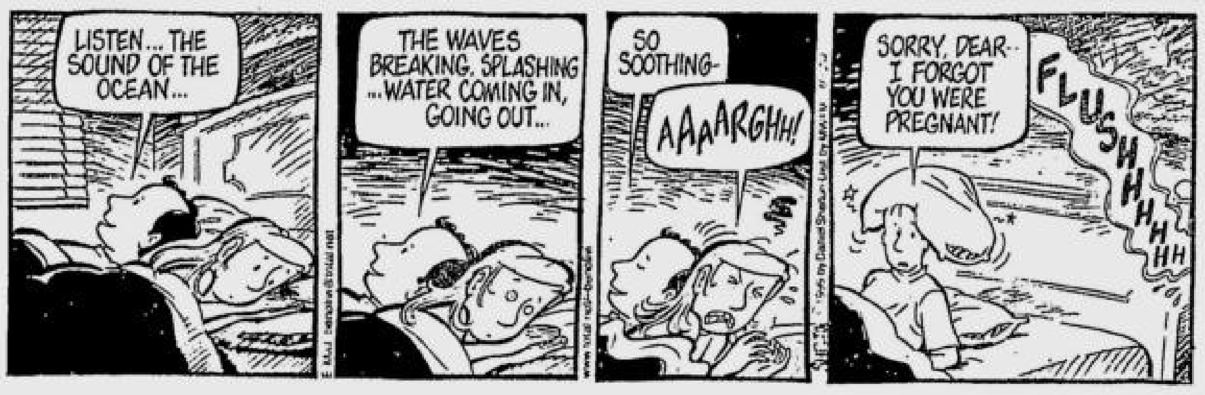
6/14/01

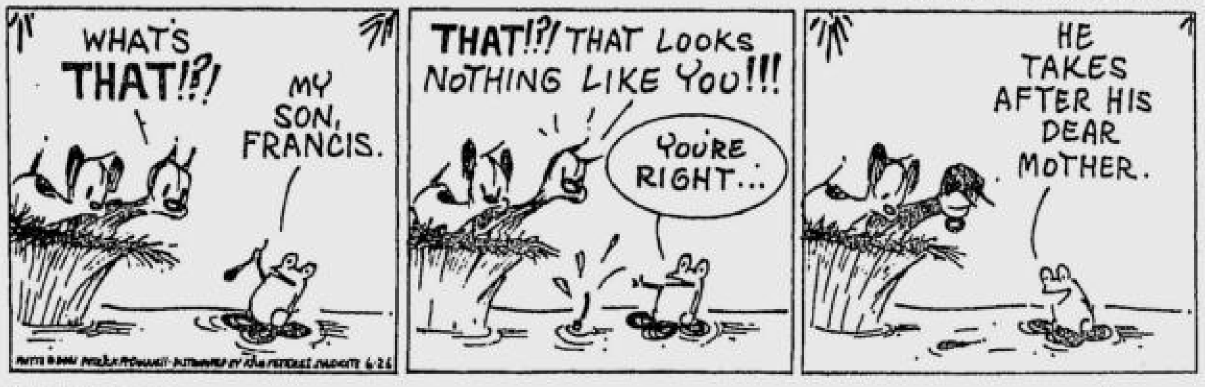
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LISTEN... THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN...
THE WAVES BREAKING, SPLASHING ...WATER COMING IN, GOING OUT...
SO SOOTHING-
AAAARGHH!
SORRY, DEAR-- I FORGOT YOU WERE PREGNANT!
FLUSHHHHH

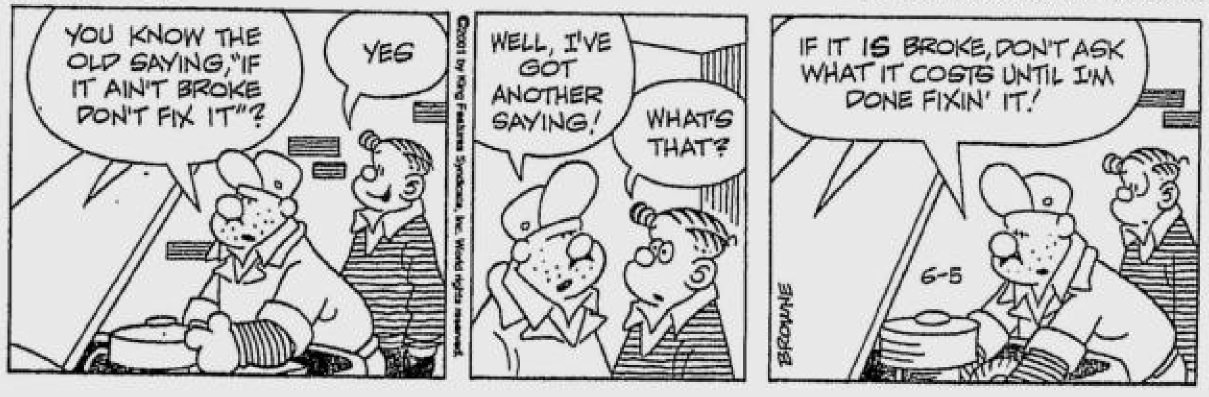
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S THAT!?!
MY SON, FRANCIS.
THAT!?! THAT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE YOU!!!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
HE TAKES AFTER HIS DEAR MOTHER.
6-26

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING, "IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT"?
YES
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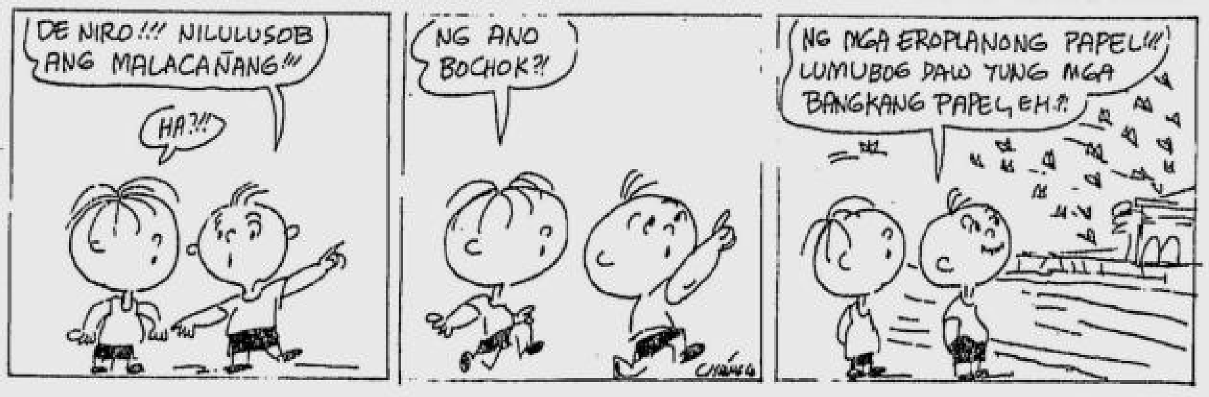
WELL, I'VE GOT ANOTHER SAYING!
WHAT'S THAT?
IF IT IS BROKE, DON'T ASK WHAT IT COSTS UNTIL I'M DONE FIXIN' IT!
BROWNE
6-5

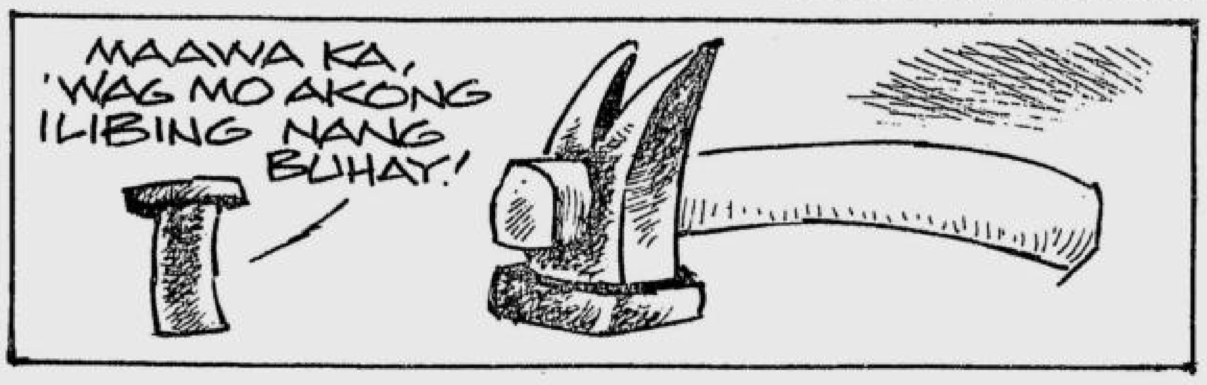
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO!!! NILULUSOB ANG MALACAÑANG!!!
HA?!!
NG ANO BOCHOK?!
NG MGA EROPLANONG PAPEL!!! LUMUBOG DAW YUNG MGA BANGKANG PAPEL, EH!!
CHIONG

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MAAWA KA, 'WAG MO AKONG ILIBING NANG BUHAY!

A case of teleportation or temporary amnesia?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

READER Eliseo A. Ramos of Trece Martirez, Cavite experienced something extraordinary that I have never encountered in my long years of paranormal research. He has requested me to publish his story in the hope of hearing from other readers who may have experienced the same thing. In my opinion, this is a case of either teleportation or temporary amnesia. Here is his strange experience:

"I am writing to relate an experience I had in March. To me, it is bizarre and bereft of any natural explanation.

"An uncle of my wife died at the age of 90 exactly a month ago. Shortly before his death, he would get lost whenever he went for a walk. His body was brought to the Loyola Funeral Parlor in Guadalupe, Makati City. Together with my wife, who, I acknowledge, is a better road navigator than I am, I drove from Vito Cruz, Malate. To avoid the traffic on Buendia Avenue, I drove along the South Cemetery on Kalayaan Avenue, with the intention of driving along the Pasig River toward the Guadalupe Bridge and turning right to Edsa before the bridge, hence to Loyola.

"Avoiding the traffic bottleneck I expected on J.P. Rizal corner Makati Avenue Extension, I drove straight to Kalayaan Avenue while crossing Makati Avenue, intending to turn left and rejoin J.P. Rizal. As I drove on, I realized the street was getting narrower and there was no street turning left toward J.P. Rizal Extension. I therefore maneuvered to get back, retracing my route and every now and then asking people standing by the road for direction.

"On my last stop, I inquired from a woman by the road for direction toward Edsa, if we'd take the J.P. Rizal route. To my horror, she said that we were in Mandaluyong City and if I wanted to drive through J.P. Rizal., I must go back to take the Makati Avenue Bridge and after crossing the bridge toward Makati City, I must turn left on J.P. Rizal until I reach Guadalupe Bridge on Edsa!

"We, indeed, crossed the bridge, but drove very slowly as we seriously pondered how in the world we got to Mandaluyong, when we did not cross Pasig River! We recalled that there was absolutely no bridge existing between the points of Makati Avenue Bridge and Guadalupe Bridge on Edsa. Such an experience is not only baffling but is also a mystery.

"Is this phenomenon divine in origin or is it something else? For a driver of over 40 years like me, combined with the driving experience of my wife of 30 years, this was the first time we encountered such mystery. We cannot even afford to reveal this to our friends lest they say that what we went through was hallucination! To us, this experience is very traumatic. We want to forget it completely, but we cannot.

"To top it all, this mysterious incident happened to me again two weeks ago. I was driving on Araneta Avenue in QC toward Aurora Boulevard and then turned right on Aurora with the intention of crossing Pasig River through Nagtahan Bridge. I drove straight on Aurora Boulevard and suddenly I stopped when I saw a sign "Taft Avenue" on the elevated MRT rail!

"I did not cross any bridge. Neither did I pass on J.P. Laurel in front of Malacañang Palace, otherwise I could have been confronted by presidential sentries. I realized I was driving on Ayala Boulevard, which could only happen after crossing Ayala Bridge, which I did not. From this point I was already familiar with my surroundings and proceeded to Luneta, where it was very easy to find my way.

"This second extraordinary experience is far better than my first, because it shortened the distance of my travel, while the first one, it lengthened the distance, which smacked of a bad joke from someone so powerful. Whatever harm my first experience brought was made up for by the second, hence, whoever was responsible, a good spirit perhaps, deserves my sincere appreciation.

"But my case is something nobody has yet experienced. Which is why I've brought it to your attention, since this is a science you are familiar with. If you could print this in your column and invite your readers to comment if they have had this queer experience, perhaps we could unravel the secret of this phenomenon. Much as I would like to forget it, I cannot not shake it off my mind.

"Thank you for your assistance and more power to you."

(Sgd.) ELISEO A. RAMOS
Trece Martirez, Cavite

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

DUTY FREE
PHILIPPINES

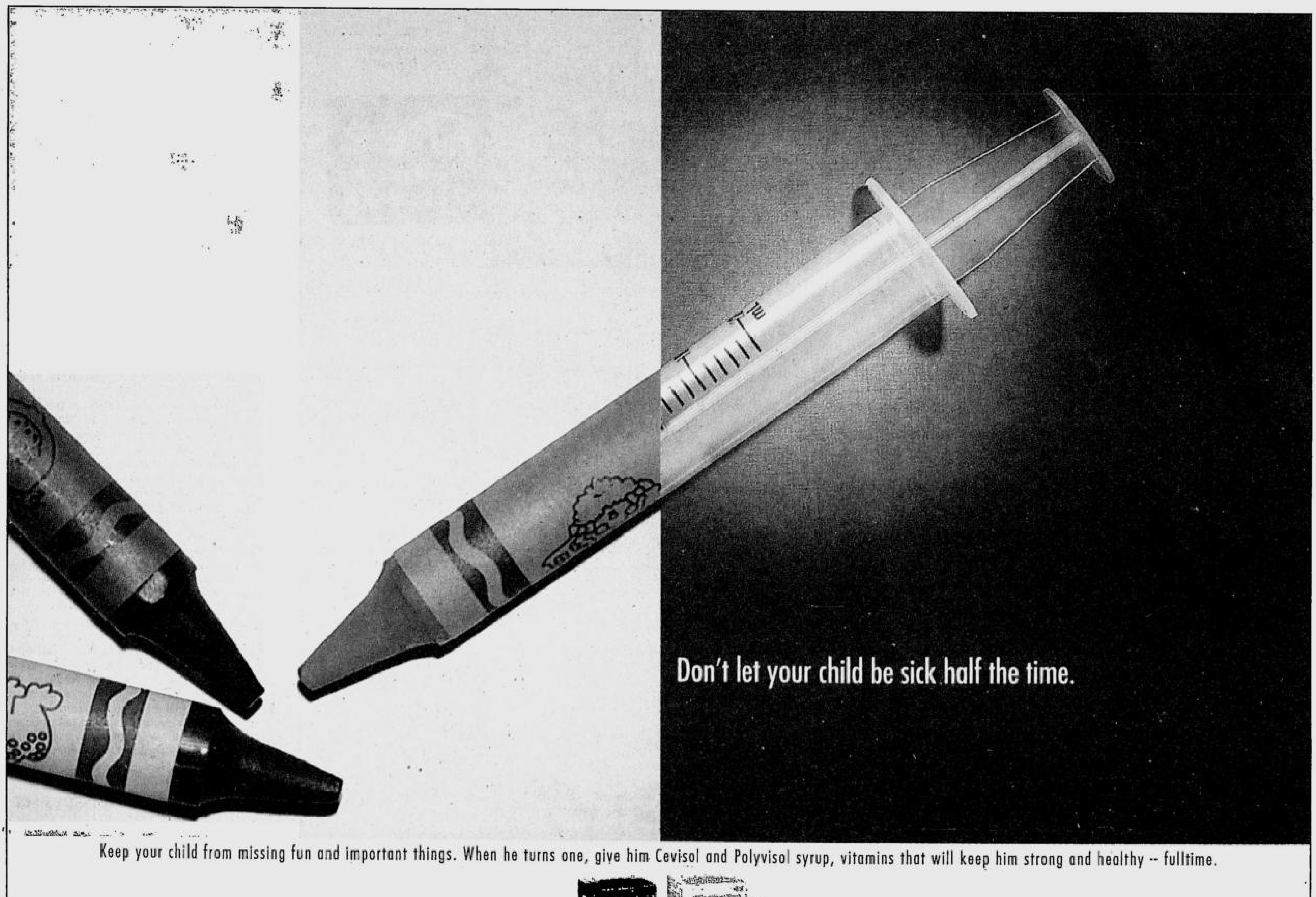
SHOPPERS' ADVISORY

Duty Free Philippines assures the public that
all cigarette products sold in all its outlets are genuine.

They are sourced directly from licensed manufacturers and official distributors and that all incoming shipments are duly covered by documents certifying their origin.

DFP is issuing this announcement in the light of reported proliferation of fake cigarettes. All cigarette consumers are hereby encouraged to buy only from authorized dealers for their protection.

GOVERNMENT WARNING: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health



Keep your child from missing fun and important things. When he turns one, give him Cevisol and Polyvisol syrup, vitamins that will keep him strong and healthy -- fulltime.

ASCORBIC ACID
Ce•Vi•Sol* syrup
To help build body resistance

MULTIVITAMIN
+MINERALS+B COMPLEX
Poly•Vi•Sol* syrup
To keep him strong and healthy.

MeadJohnson
where good health begins.

BREATHE Thin
BREATHE YOUR FAT AWAY
IN JUST MINUTES A DAY!
ARSI BALTAZAR
LOSE UP TO 20 LBS. IN AS LITTLE AS 2 WEEKS!
ARSI BALTAZAR
ANITA ANGELES-BALTAZAR
BREATHE YOUR FAT AWAY
IN JUST MINUTES A DAY
BY ARSI BALTAZAR

Breathe your way to weight loss

THE ALL-NATURAL, revolutionary weight-loss system called Breathe Thin, founded by image and fitness expert Arsi Baltazar, is centered on a unique aerobic breathing technique.

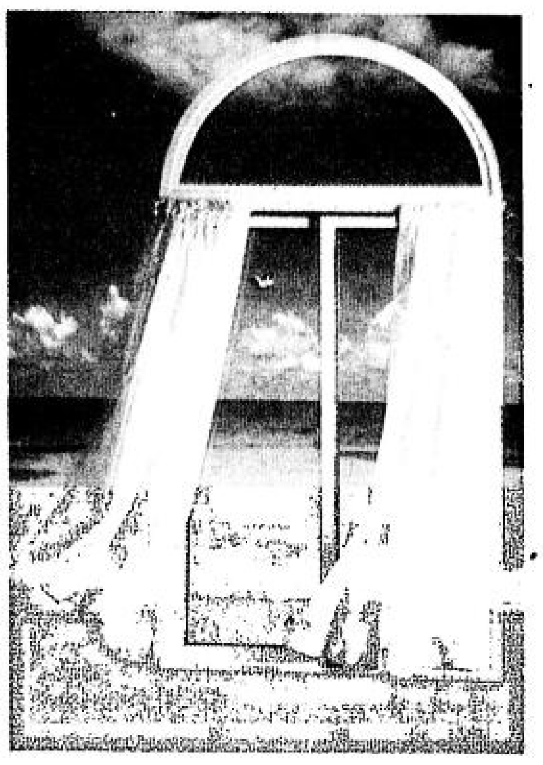
AeroBreathe, which is done with simple stretching positions for less than 15 minutes a day, claims to result into faster metabolisms, higher fat burning rates and increased energy. Show-biz people like Ogie Alcasid, Plinky Recto, Anne Curtis, Robin da Roza and Fernando Carrillo have become avid endorsers of the system. Even megastar Sharon Cuneta in her Sunday evening TV show revealed that the secret to her phenomenal pre-pregnancy weight loss was following the principles of the Breathe Thin diet.

"When people breathe normally, they are using only 20 percent of their lung capacity," says Arsi. "Why are athletes are so fit and slim? During exercise they stress and strain their bodies, forcing themselves to breathe more. The increased intake of oxygen brings the athlete's body into a state of aerobic breathing, meaning continuous burning of fat. Based on these facts, it becomes clear that it's the breathing, not the exercise that induces weight loss. Breathe Thin teaches people how to reach that same aerobic state by focusing on the breathing rather than the exercise.

Arsi claims that Breathe Thin is safe and can be done by people of all ages in almost any setting. No need for expensive machines or diet supplements, simply oxygen and breathing. Arsi himself is the greatest proof that Breathe Thin works: He lost 77 pounds and 10 inches (in the waist) in just a few months and has stayed that way.

The Breathe Thin package includes the instructional VHS tape, the 15-Minute Exercise VHS tape, the Exercise VCD, the Instructional Book, the Diet Book and the Exercise Guide. Call Value Vision at 890-2345.

New trap for air pollutants



THE AIR at home—even if it's air-conditioned—is teeming with millions of microorganisms and harmful substances unseen by the naked eye. A circus of dust mites, pollen, animal dander, molds and harmful chemicals fills the air. If there's a lot of sneezing going on in a household, or if residents suffer from a variety of respiratory ailments—from asthma to rhinitis and chronic bronchitis—chances are the air is polluted or filled with allergens.

Allergens are irritants present in the atmosphere, certain materials that come into contact with the skin, or substances in the food we eat that bring about adverse reactions like itchiness, hives, eczema or sneezing, coughing or a runny nose.

There are three general ways to deal with allergies: Medication, immunotherapy (or vaccination) and environmental control, which means eliminating the causes of the allergy from one's surroundings.

Allergens are divided into five categories: ingestants, injectants, contactants, infectants and inhalants. Of these six, inhalants cause the most trouble.

Apart from molds, pollens, animal dander, dust and dust mites, feathers, vegetable seeds, fibers, inhaled medications, tobacco smoke and even perfumes cause allergies and skin or respiratory woes. Eighty to 90 percent of allergies in adults are caused by inhalants.

House dust mites—the microscopic arthropods that trigger asthma attacks—thrive in humid environments and multiply fast there. In general, humid homes have more mites and therefore, more allergens. Air conditioners help to reduce humidity in the air, and make the environment unfriendly for dust mites. The cold temperature keeps them from multiplying. To save on cost, consumers can use the air conditioner to purify the air by simply adding a high-efficiency fiber.

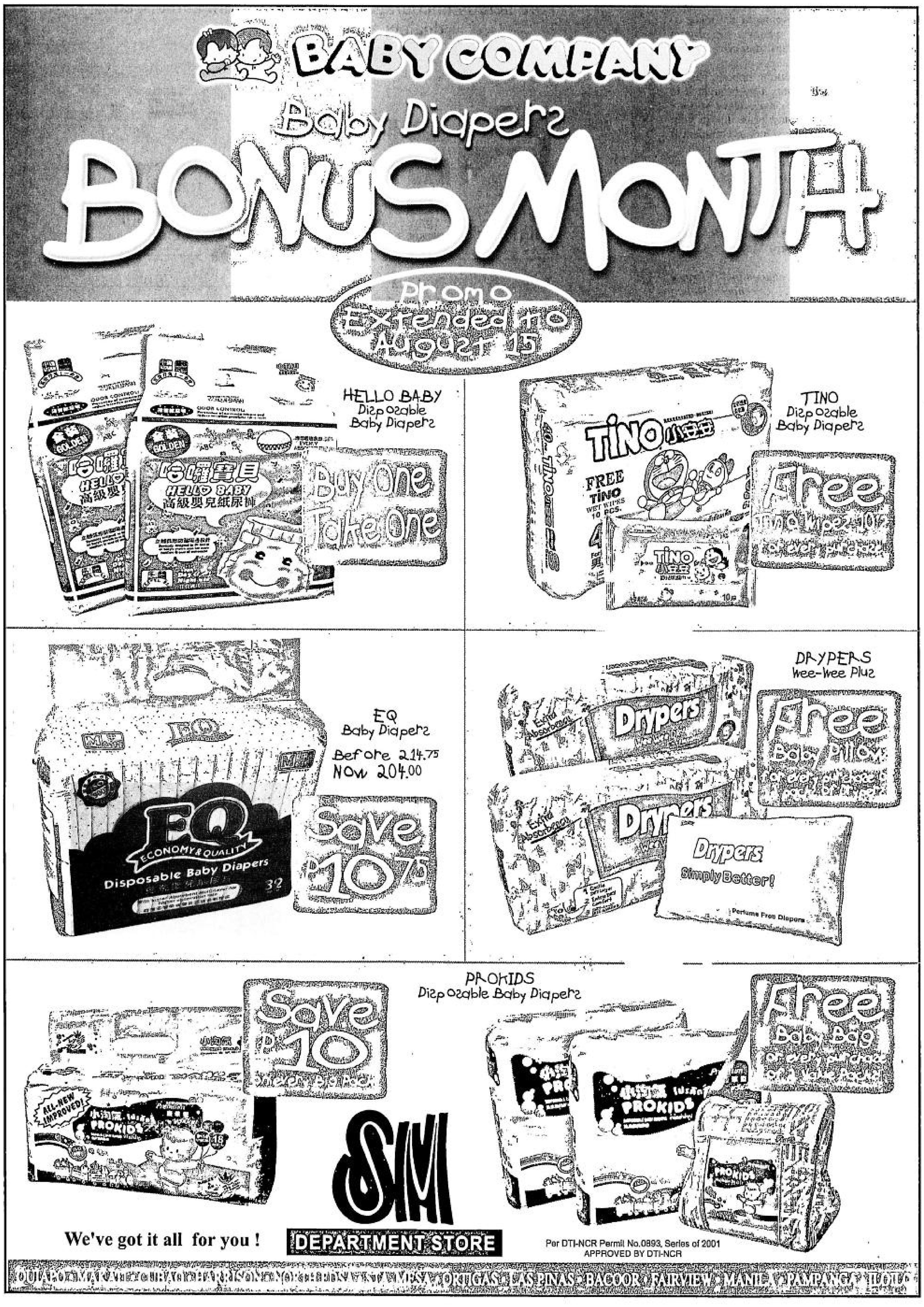
The American Lung Association has recommended the additional use of high-efficiency aircon filters, such as Filtrete Aircon Filters, which have electrostatically charged fibers that act like magnets to attract and trap allergy-causing microparticles.

Ordinary foam and built-in aircon filters are made of loosely woven fibers that can trap only big dust particles, but this filter innovation from 3M, which can be used for residences or places of work, are able to trap and prevent smaller dust particles, dust mites, pet dander, pollen and other allergens from being recirculated in the air. High-efficiency filters like Filtrete come in boxes that can fit all kinds of window and split-type air conditioners, and can be bought from retail hardware stores in malls, home improvement centers and leading drugstores. Simply attach the filter to the back part of the aircon unit's built-in screen mesh filter and cut the excess Filtrete aircon filter, if any.

The high-efficiency filter can trap and filter microparticles 20 times better than the ordinary slide-in mesh filter. Filtretes high-performing aircon filters are so effective in trapping air pollutants that indoor air can be kept pure for as long as two-months under normal conditions—depending on the amount of indoor air pollution present in the house. Smoking, ongoing construction, renovation and the presence of pets all affect the indoor pollution level.

Consumers should know that indoor pollution increases the risk of acute respiratory diseases, including skin asthma for those with very sensitive skin. This is true for the whole family, but more so for babies and young children whose lungs are still developing and whose respiratory passages are narrower. (This is the reason they are more prone to chest pains, aggravated asthma and chronic bronchitis.)

For more information on Filtrete, call 813-3781 or visit www.3m.com/ph and www.lungusa.org.



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Healthy Options
Boosting Your Libido at Midlife

Read for your health

THE JULY/AUGUST 2001 issue of Healthy Options News Digest includes "Boosting Libido at Midlife," a topic women are increasingly open to discussing with their peers and health-care providers nowadays. Hormonal changes that occur at menopause can affect several aspects of sexual desire.

Also in the latest issue are enlightening and educational sections on natural beauty, kitchen remedies, health line, sports nutrition, vital finds, supplement review and a special report.

The natural beauty segment gives advice on how to maintain healthy legs and how to avoid, prevent, alleviate and cure leaky veins by putting some pep in your step and using leg-supporting supplements.

The kitchen remedy corner reports on how taking flaxseed and flax oil on a regular basis can easily become the best health investment one can make. In the health line segment, it's true that "Exercise Can Make You Happy." Research shows that a good workout beats the blues and gives you the ultimate high. For sports nutrition, discussed is essential info on "Eating for Optimum Performance" with meal replacements, protein powders and metabolic optimizers.

The vital finds portion elaborates on "Talking to Your MD about Alternative Medicine." A supplement review discusses "Chromium Picolinate" and how it aids in fat loss, fighting diabetes and aging. There is also a special report on "Parasite Alert."

All these and more health information from the latest Healthy Option News Digest may be availed of for free at the nearest Healthy Options stores located in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Course on OB-Gyn issues set

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology holds its 5th postgraduate course titled "Emerging Issues in OB-Gyn," Aug. 21-22, at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Invited foreign speaker Prof. Soon Chye Ng, M.D., an expert on reproductive endocrinology and infertility from the National University Hospital of Singapore, will give a series of lectures on the genetic aspect of male infertility, the current status of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Insemination, and cloning and its future.

Call St. Luke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at 723-1212 or 727-5542 or e-mail obgyn@stluke.com.ph.

IMAGE EVALUATION
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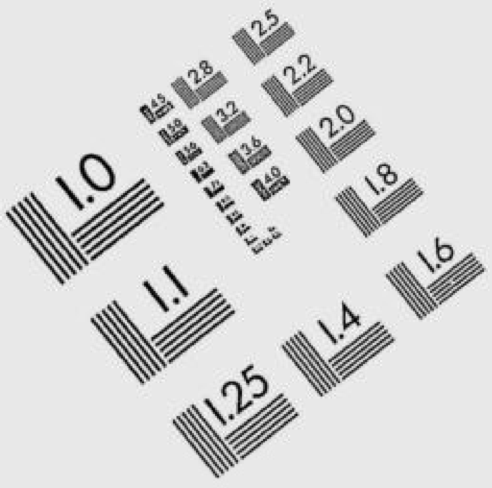
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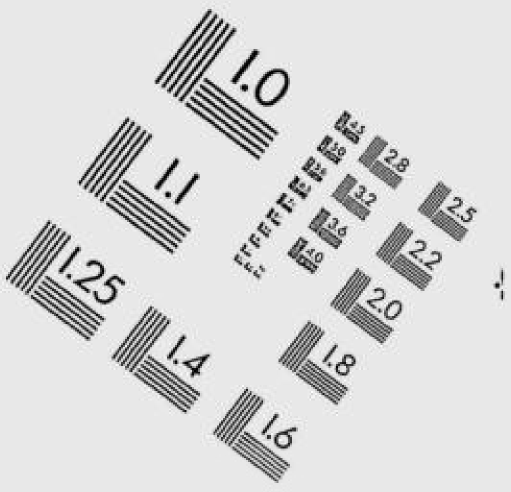
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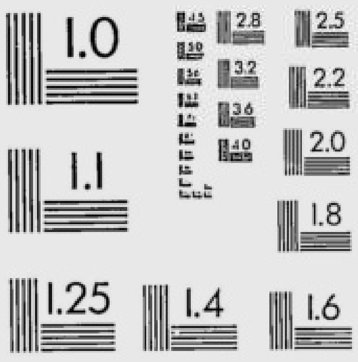
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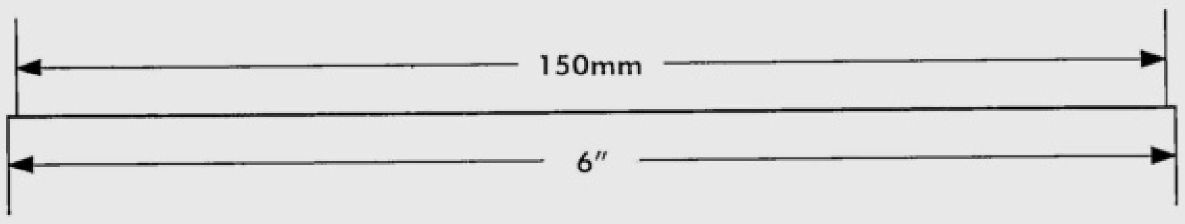

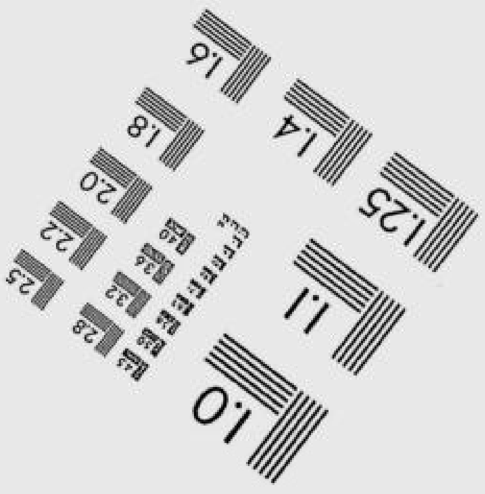
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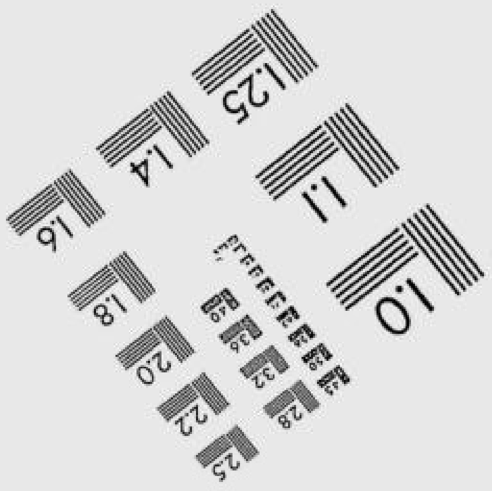
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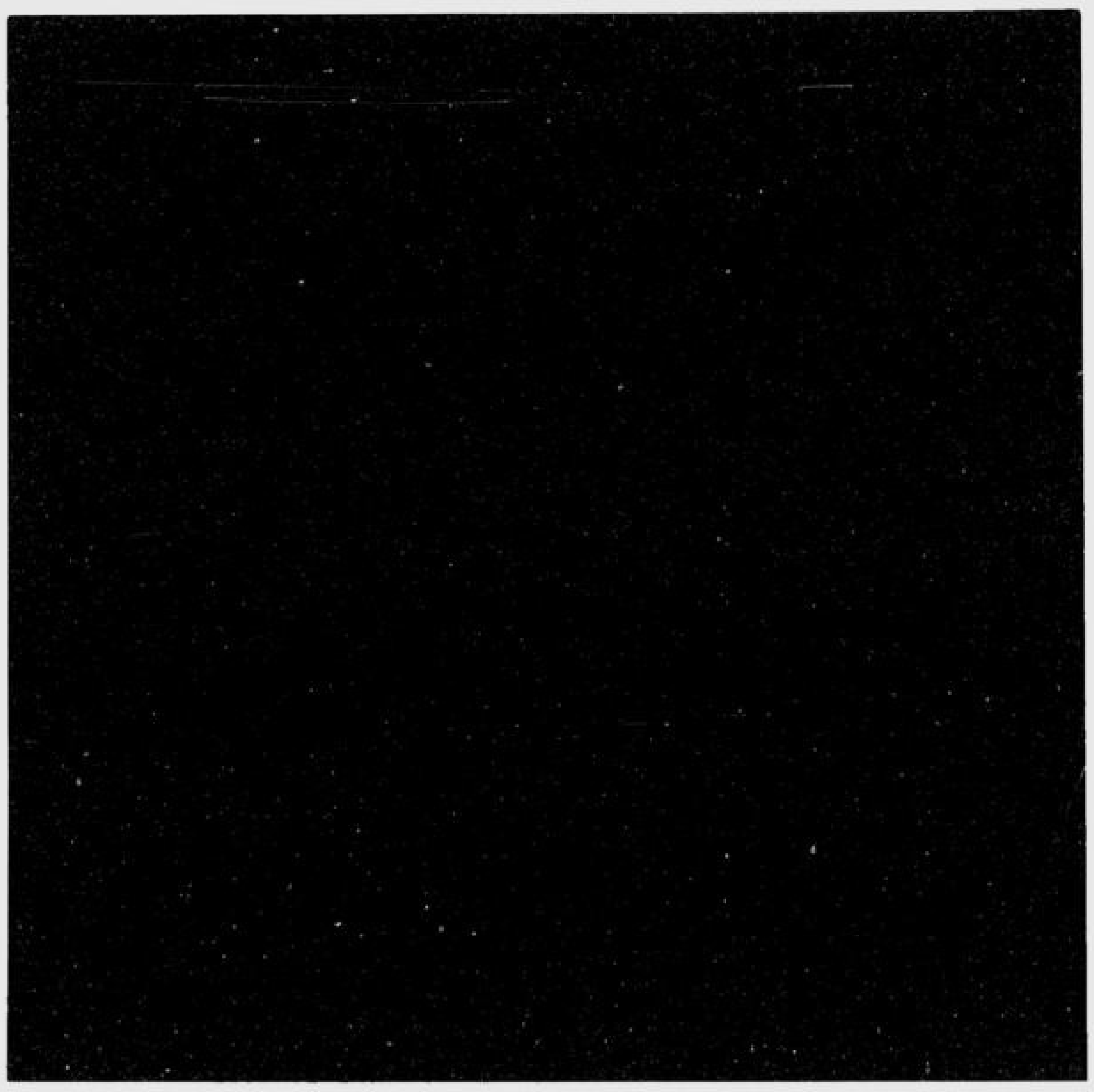

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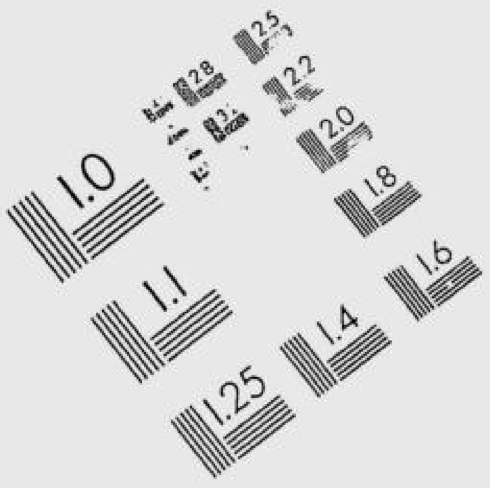
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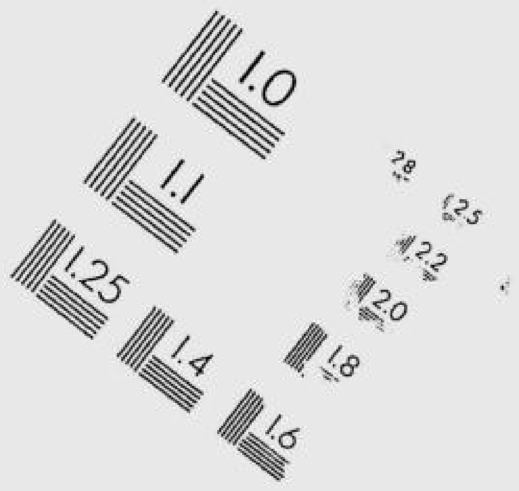
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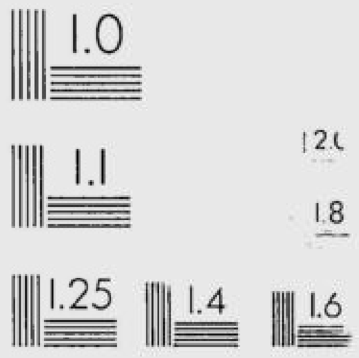
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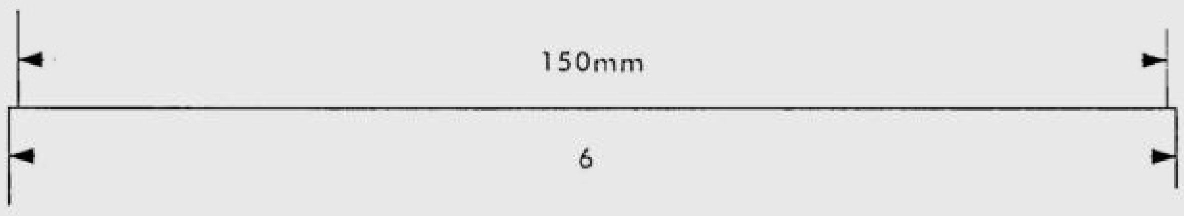

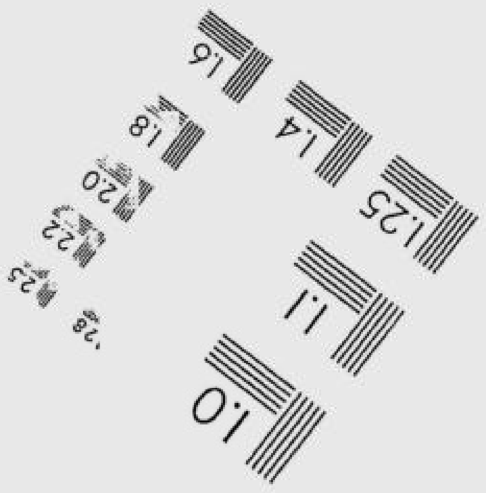
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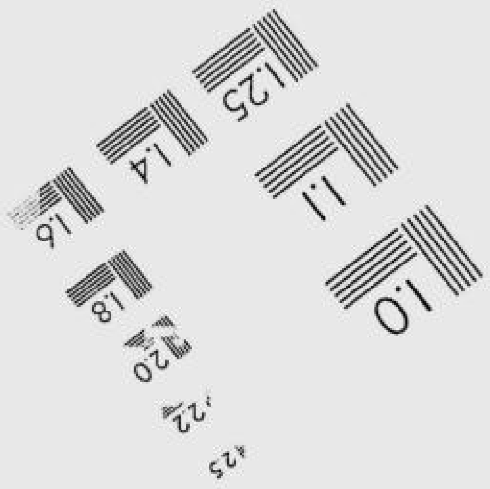
APPLIED IMAGE Inc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